

Hafa Adai!

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IPI: Cancelling contracts an option



By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Imperial Pacific International CNMI LLC legal counsel Charles McDonald said canceling the contracts of several contractors and subcontractors working on the Imperial Pacific Resort is one of the options that they are looking at following several construction worker rallies the past few days.

» **Commissioner says contractors hurting the CNMI**

MCC International and Gold Mantis Construction Decoration (CNM) LLC have allegedly used illegal workers at the construction site as some of them entered the CNMI as tourists.

IPI chair Mark A. Brown also made an earlier statement saying that they are willing to terminate contracts of several construction firms, which hired

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Commonwealth Casino Commission commissioner Alvaro Santos, left, talks to representatives of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) Ltd. in yesterday's meeting at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library.

JON PEREZ

Sakman navigators to join Flame Tree Arts Festival

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Master traditional navigators Tony Pailug and Sesario Sewralur and six other crewmembers are scheduled to arrive today to join the 2017 Flame Tree Arts Festival. Their expected time of arrival is at 5pm where a traditional Chamorro ceremony will take place at the Garapan Fishing Base.

Indigenous Affairs Office resident executive Roman M. Tudela Jr. and program manager Cris Ogo said the group is on board the

Sakman Chamorro, which is organized by Guam-based non-profit group Traditions Affirming our Seafaring Ancestry.

The group left Guam at 8am on Sunday and they are hoping they would arrive at the expected time to begin the ceremony before the formal opening of the four-day Flame Tree Arts Festival.

Tudela said the event is part of their efforts to educate the youth of today about the traditional way of navigating the seas, the same way their Chamorro ancestors

See SAKMAN on Page 4

CUC withdraws emergency in genset acquisition

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board has cancelled the emergency status of its procurement of a diesel engine yesterday during its regular board meeting.

After last week's joint legislative oversight hearing over the emergency procurement of an engine to address

Saipan's growing power needs, the CUC board halted negotiations with General Pacific Services Marianas Inc. Freezing of negotiations was a recommendation that was offered by both the CNMI House and Senate Public Transportation and Utilities committees.

In line with cancelling negotiations, CUC also withdrew the emergency status of the procure-

ment, which means that the utilities company would be procuring the needed 8- to 10-megawatt engine the normal way—through a request for proposal, or RFP.

CUC board chair Adelina Roberto told media that the board is following the recommendations of the Legislature.

“[Legislature] said there was no

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INSIDE



NATION

A man wanted in the slaying of a security guard set out to kill as many white people as he could on Tuesday.

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FOCUS

Since her father was elected president of the United States, global sales of Ivanka Trump merchandise have surged

PAGE 18



LIFE & STYLE

Authorities say an intruder was arrested at Drake's Southern California house, but the woman apparently did nothing but drink the rapper's water and soda pop.

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Local

Judge denies Hocog's renewed motion to dismiss Yamamoto's lawsuit

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona yesterday denied Lt. Gov. Victor B.

Hocog's second motion to dismiss Japanese investor Takahisa Yamamoto's first amended complaint against him and owners of cargo ship M/V *Luta*.

Manglona said Hocog's

second motion to dismiss raises defenses that were available to him when he filed his first motion to dismiss and does not come under either of the two exceptions listed in Rule 12(g) of the Federal Rules of

Civil Procedure.

Manglona does not find that addressing the second motion now would expedite a fair and just disposition of the case on the merits.

The judge ordered Hocog to

file a response pleading to Yamamoto's lawsuit no later than May 3, 2017.

On Oct. 25, 2016, Yamamoto filed a complaint against M/V *Luta*, Luta Mermaid LLC, and six other defen-

dants, including Hocog. As against Luta Mermaid, Hocog, and five other defendants, Yamamoto alleged breach of contract and fraud.

On Nov. 17, 2016, Hocog
See JUDGE on Next Page

McDonald's Easter egg hunt draws 250

ERWIN ENCINARES

The toddlers that participated in the McDonald's Easter Egg Hunt last Black Saturday had a blast as they received various freebies courtesy of McDonald's Saipan.



Both children and adults alike were able to bond last Black Saturday during the McDonald's Easter Egg Hunt held at McDonald's Middle Road.

With free registration, the event attracted about 250 kids, including registrants and walk-ins. According to McDonald's executive assistant Mabel Ayuyu, the event turned out to be a huge success, a success she wishes to see annually.

"We wanted to do something for the kids. Some of the eggs have 'be-our-guest' cards in them, so kids can get French fries, an apple pie, sandwiches, happy meals, and more," she said.

According to Ayuyu, the Easter egg hunt was held last Black Saturday so as not to get in the way with family plans for Easter Sunday. Prizes include a \$15 McDonald's gift certificate for those that found

the elusive Ronald McDonald egg and silver egg and participants that were able to collect the most eggs of the group.

A cash prize of \$25 was awarded to the participant that found the golden egg.

The egg hunt was divided into two categories divided by age, with the smaller area of the egg hunt designated for participant's ages 3 to 5 and the larger area for ages 6 to 9.

"We are very thankful to the community for coming in to support us and partake in the Easter egg hunt. Hopefully we continue this next year. It would only get better," said Ayuyu, hinting that the egg hunt could be an annual thing.

"We've been so surprised with the turnout that this may end up as an annual event and we hope to continue [organizing] this as something free for the kids," she added. **(Erwin Encinares)**

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IN RESPONSE TO MOTION TO DISQUALIFY AG FROM SUIT OVER SALARY HIKE

Manibusan says he is only upholding constitution

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Attorney General Edward Manibusan said he is only exercising his obligation to uphold the CNMI Constitution in filing a lawsuit that seeks to enjoin Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson from paying the governor, lieutenant governor, and lawmakers the increased salaries found in Public Law 19-83.

Manibusan, through counsel Office of the Attorney General Civil Division chief Christopher M. Timmons, said he found himself faced in this P.L. 19-83 issue with a choice between two obligations: to uphold the Constitution and to defend the government.

Manibusan chose the obligation to uphold the Constitution and allowed a skilled attorney in private practice to perform the obligation to defend the government, said Timmons in the AG's opposition to Larson's motion to disqualify him (Manibusan).

Former AG Matthew Gregory has been designated as special assistant attorney general to represent Larson in this case.

Timmons said Manibusan essentially self-disqualified from representing Larson in this action.

Timmons said there is no need to disqualify the Office of the Attorney General from representing Manibusan as well, as it is well settled that conflicts of interest should not be imputed among counsel within OAG.

Larson asked the Superior Court to disqualify Manibusan from continuing as counsel or party to this lawsuit.

In Larson's motions, Gregory asserted, among other things, that as the chief legal officer of the CNMI government, the AG is constitutionally mandated to advise and represent the Finance secretary, in her official capacity, on many matters pertaining to Finance.

Gregory noted that these actions by the AG against his client, Larson, raises serious concerns of conflict to the NMI Model Rules of Professional Responsibility.

Gregory said Manibusan's conduct violates Model Rules of Professional Conduct Rule 1.7 given the fact that he is suing an existing client.

In Manibusan's opposition, Timmons said it is common for offices of Attorneys General to represent multiple and even opposing parties in the same proceeding, even where multiple clients have interests adverse to one another, so long as steps are taken to protect

client confidences.

Timmons said Larson's argument is predicated on Model Rule 1.7 that applies to direct conflicts.

However, Timmons said, Larson has not alleged that the specific government lawyers prosecuting this lawsuit have advised her at all, let alone in connection with the matters raised in this case.

Timmons said so long as client confidences are not breached, conflict-free members of AG's staff may

do so without fear of disqualification.

Citing previous cases, the Civil Division chief noted that historically, the CNMI AG has represented adverse governmental clients and organizations.

In this case, he said, Manibusan and Larson did not discuss the constitutionality of P.L. 19-83, and the AG immediately designated an outside counsel to represent Larson upon filing of the lawsuit.

Timmons noted that several

of the statutes Manibusan is challenging are decades old, and no taxpayer has stepped up to file suit in the meantime.

Timmons said the decision to bring an action to enforce the constitutional framework to set or adjust legislative pay is within the sound discretion of the AG.

As plaintiff, Timmons pointed, Manibusan need not wait any longer to exercise his constitutional authority.

Manibusan's lawsuit alleges that Public Law 19-83, which

provided the salary increases, is unconstitutional because the Advisory Commission that recommended such increase was not validly constituted, and that such increase recommended by the commission for the Legislature exceeded the change in an "accepted price index" since the last time the salary was adjusted.

Manibusan asked the court to issue preliminary and permanent injunctions to prevent Larson from implementing the law.

HOUSE

From Page 2

filed a motion to dismiss Yamamoto's complaint for failure to plead sufficient facts to sustain a claim of fraud.

In response, on Dec. 1, 2016, Yamamoto filed a first amended complaint. The court then determined that Hocog's motion to dismiss was moot.

Within hours of the court's order, Hocog filed another motion to dismiss the first amended complaint. He asserted that the first amended complaint was not verified.

On March 7, 2017, the court denied the motion to dismiss the first amended complaint

having determined that the Supplemental Rules for Admiralty or Maritime Claims did not require verification of the claims against Hocog.

Last March 22, Hocog filed this motion to dismiss the first amended complaint.

In her order yesterday denying Hocog's motion, Manglona said she does not find that the circumstances presented here warrant reaching the merits of Hocog's second motion to dismiss the first amended complaint.

Manglona said she is not convinced that foot dragging played no part in the delay.

Manglona said the most important is that the issues have not been adequately briefed by either party.

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KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Participants of the Walk & Roll Against Sexual Violence pose for a group photo yesterday at the parking lot of the Chalan Kanoa Leadership Kiosk.

100 take part in Walk & Roll Against Sexual Assault

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence held a walk to celebrate April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month around the village of Chalan Kanoa yesterday.

The Walk & Roll Against

Sexual Violence attracted several dozen community members and was done to spread awareness against sexual violence and for victims to speak up and speak out against sexual violence, domestic abuse, and child abuse.

Coalition executive director Maisie Tenorio said the walk was a part of the group's

sexual assault campaign. The campaign's purpose is raise awareness on sexual assault and sexual violence.

She said the walk was also to raise hope for sexually assaulted victims who are battling it or have battled the traumatizing experience.

The Walk & Roll Against Sexual Violence was also to

educate the neighborhood about the coalition and what their campaign is all about. It was also to get the community involved in the fight against sexual assault and sexual violence.

According to Tenorio, a walk was also scheduled for Kagman but it was cancelled on account of rain.

This walk was the first of its kind for the month of April and this year.

According to Tenorio, over a hundred people participated in the Walk & Roll Against Sexual Violence event yesterday. In Tenorio's perspective, the walk was a success.

T-shirts were distributed before the walk to everyone who

volunteered and registered.

An official who requested anonymity joined the walk because of the cause. He believes that because of this walk, whoever is hiding behind trauma of being sexually abused, can finally speak up after seeing the many people who are fighting for them.

SAKMAN

From Page 1

tors did in the past.

"This is a historical event. It is a rare time for our people to see a Sakman and get on

board. There would be a time to explore the canoe after the Flame Tree Festival, but there's no exact date yet," said Tudela.

Ogo added the Sakman is one of six traditional canoes used by the Chamorro peo-

ple. "It is the biggest. It is 33 feet with the sail as high as 50 feet. They used the trunk of nine bread fruit trees in making the exact replica of the Sakman."

Ogo said the project of building the canoe started two

years ago led by TASA with the help of Rota native Fermina Atalig Sablan. "This project would help us look back at our history. The history of the Chamorro culture and the traditional way of navigating the seas."

Tudela said traditions like this must be kept alive. "We have three Chamorros who are part of the group. They wanted to learn traditional navigation. This tradition must be passed on and kept alive. We need to keep in touch with our roots."

They added that Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Department of Culture and Community Affairs Secretary Robert Hunter are supporting a project that would teach and revive the traditional Chamorro way of navigating the seas.

CUC

From Page 1

emergency, so we are just doing what they asked us to do. We cancelled the RFQ (request for quotation) and that was accompanied by an emergency declaration, so when we cancel the RFQ, we also have to cancel the emergency status

since they were together," explained Roberto.

CUC board member Joseph Torres, the director who escalated the procurement to an emergency status, proposed to the board to cancel the request for quotation altogether, effectively cancelling the engine's emergency status along with it.

"The Legislature said there is no need for an emergency

[declaration] because they think [our situation] is okay. I decided [to declare an emergency], because of what the CUC generation people reported to us of the situation about the engine," explained Torres.

According to Torres, he further explained that the quickest way for the procurement of the engine was to "declare an emergency."

"I recalled the emergency issue and we will see—based on what the Legislature has recommended—which way we could go [for] the proper procurement of the engine."

In the event that a situation arises due to the lack of power, Torres claims he would "go up to [the Legislature] and ask them what [CUC] should do."

Torres reiterated that the

Legislature has been welcome to attend CUC board meetings, but said he was disappointed that members of the Legislature failed to show up yesterday.

"The administration was aware of the situation because we reported. Again, I asked them to come to our meeting so they can hear the status of our power plant," he said.

Despite declaring that the

generator procurement was an emergency and rushing to procure the engine as fast as possible, the CUC board stepped back to discuss the procurement further and issue an RFP in the near future even if it meant the delay of the engine.

"We would sit down with the management and we would see what we can do to move forward," said Torres.

IPI

From Page 1

illegal workers, if they fail to follow federal and local laws.

McDonald, in yesterday's meeting of the Commonwealth Casino Commission, informed everyone present that the recent turn of events had them again reaching out to contractors they hired to complete the casino hotel.

"There have been negative things that had happened on construction site, I know that you're all aware of that. The FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation) has executed search warrants to various contractors and subcontractors that led to six arrests," said McDonald.

"The discovery of these undocumented workers on the site ultimately impacted the construction. We reached out to our contractors and subcontractors, and reinforced IPI's practices of following local and federal laws and regulations.

McDonald said they are taking a proactive approach in addressing the situation. "IPI

is really concerned on the actions of some of our contractors and subcontractors, and we don't condone their activities. We are taking a more proactive approach in assuring all laws are followed.

"In our contracts, there are clauses that require all contractors to follow all laws (federal or local). We reminded those contractors of their obligations to IPI. We're exploring all possibilities with our contractors, including termination of their contracts."

He added that there is no clear direction which path IPI would take. "Termination sounds like ideal but at the same time there are other things that must be considered. For example the CW visa holders that they have, what will happen to them?"

"Given the difficulty in obtaining local labor force, those CW visa holders are valuable. We're weighing all our actions and the necessity of completing the project on the decision to terminate the contracts. There's no other direction yet."

McDonald said the recent events have slowed down

work at the construction site but they have not yet determined the extent of the impact. "Construction progress slowed down. We don't know the extent of the delay. Right now, the remaining employees on site are focused in getting the casino open."

He added opening the casino would change things. "That would be a big step and would renew investor confidence with IPI. We're focused in opening the casino so we could tell everyone that we're here to stay."

'Take action'

CCC commissioner Alvaro Santos said that IPI should take action with what their contractors have been doing. "You have to tell them to follow provisions of the contract and force them to comply with laws. The march of the protestors reminds me of the days of the garment factory."

"It hurts the reputation of the company and the government. In this case, they would blame IPI. This is a tiny community and words get around fast. If it's bad, it is amplified. It is also on social media and it tarnishes the

name of the licensee."

He added that recent events also gave an opportunity for those people who are against the casino to take advantage of the situation. "The naysayers will have a party. It is an opportunity for them to further aggravate the situation. They would enjoy this. In the first place, they never supported the casino industry."

"You [IPI] guys are hurting us. Don't put out a façade that we contracted them, that's their responsibility. You must go further than that. It is a different environment here, than in Hong Kong or Macau."

Santos said that the situation could also hurt the CNMI's efforts on the issue of the CW1 visas. "You go to your contractors and subcontractors, and tell them that they need to get their acts together. You are hurting us and the CNMI government."

"We are asking for an increase on the CW cap and also an extension. With this kind of negative publicity, it would harm the efforts that our officials are doing. You need to have a serious meeting with them [contractors and subcontractors]."

MCC's statement

MCC International, meanwhile, issued a statement yesterday announcing they had already reached an agreement with the U.S. Department of Labor that they are going to fully pay the wages and other compensation of all 189 workers. They will also be repatriated back to China.

"On a daily basis for more than a week, MCC Saipan has worked closely with representatives and attorneys of the U.S. Department of Labor to address the issues in an orderly way," MCC said in the statement.

"In addition to these facts, MCC Saipan would like to inform the public that MCC Saipan is not affiliated in any way to Beilida Overseas (CNMI) Ltd. or Gold Mantis Construction Decoration (CNM) LLC."

"MCC Saipan has no relationship, contractual or otherwise, with either of these companies. Recent statements and media reports that Beilida and Gold Mantis are subcontractors for MCC Saipan are incorrect and inaccurate."

Gold Mantis workers

rally anew

Construction workers brought in by Gold Mantis again held a protest, but this time they gathered in the construction site. All 80 workers hired by Gold Mantis were present in the protest.

Laborer Jiang Jinxi said their supervisors or any representative of the company had reportedly left Saipan a few days after having signed their payroll sheet.

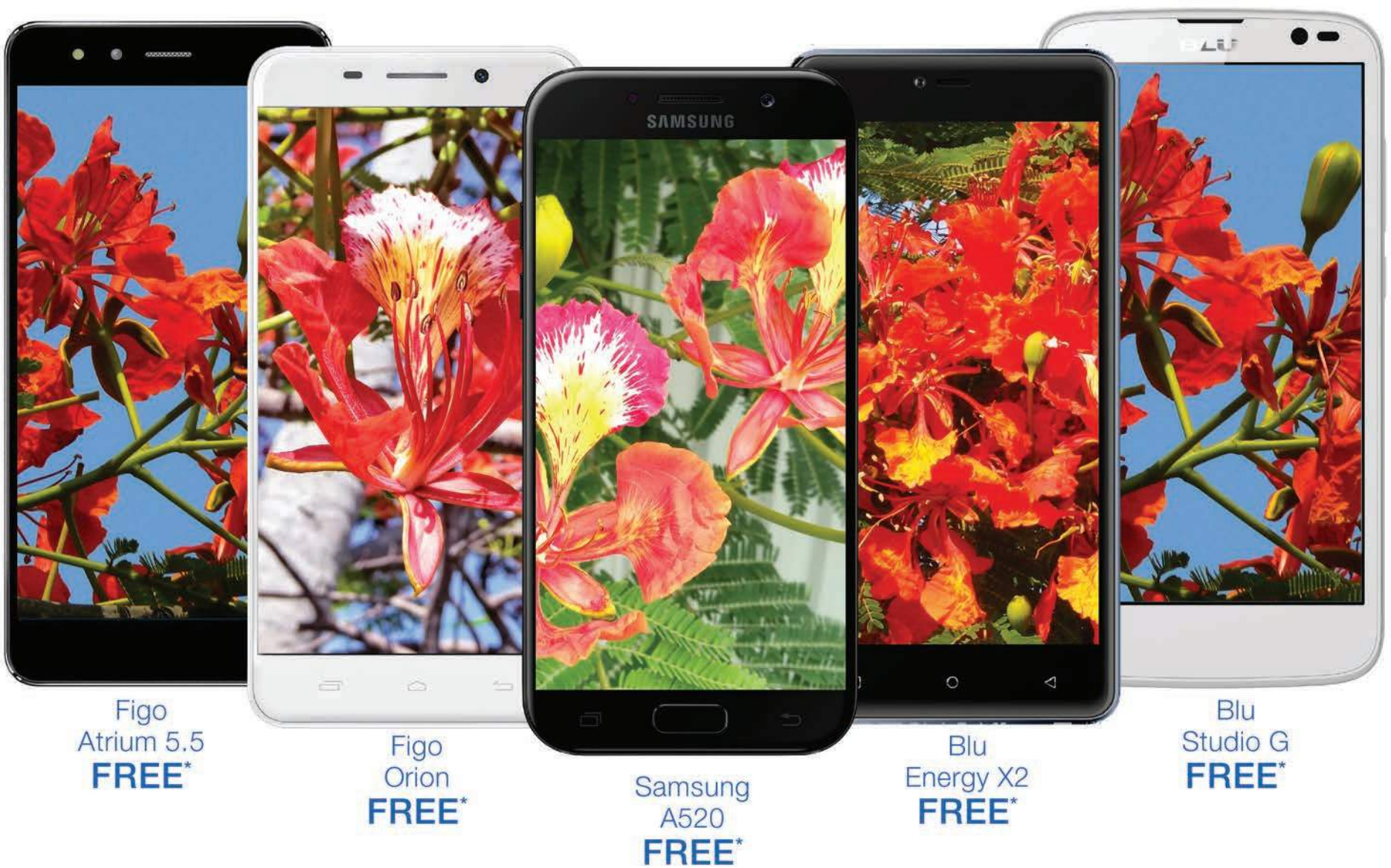
They, however, did not sign two other documents—one that says that they have already received their salaries with the amount left blank and the another releasing their employer from any responsibility.

Last Tuesday, local Department of Labor officials, led by Secretary Edith Deleon Guerrero, met with and transported the workers that protested. They tried to move the workers to another housing with power and water but they declined since it was too far and they don't know where the exact place is.

The workers also said that a Good Samaritan gave them \$300 so they could buy food since they have not eaten since late Monday.

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CUC's Sablan agrees with OPA recommendations

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board member has agreed to the audit done by the CNMI Office of the Public Auditor last month recommending that the utilities company's corporate structure be overhauled.

CUC board director David Sablan Jr. told *Saipan Tribune* Monday that he agrees with the audit done by the OPA, recommending a revision in CUC's corporate structure, effectively replacing key positions such as board members.

In the OPA audit, it was indicated that both the past and present CUC board are too involved with the management of CUC. Sablan believes the statement to be true, claiming that the CUC board is "micro-managing."

"That should not be the case; we are policymakers—we provide direction for our management and right now, there is nothing the majority of the board views that prevents them from going into CUC and advising and telling our managers what needs to be done," he said.

Sablan said the board must only be limited to communicating with CUC management

at the executive level, including positions such as the CUC executive director, CUC legal counsel, and the CUC chief financial officer.

Sablan explained that under CNMI law, Antonio Castro is the financial controller, an executive that reports directly to CUC executive director Gary Camacho. Sablan believes that CNMI law must be amended to include a CUC CFO instead of a financial controller reporting directly to the executive director.

"I do believe that we need to look at our organizational structure to try and make it more efficient in terms of communications and in terms of operational direction," said Sablan.

The CUC board has been receiving criticism over its inefficiency since its birth in 1985. Sablan brings up an issue of qualification, as he believes that there should be a certain extent of technical and engineering knowledge for CUC to be properly managed.

"What is also important is that we have qualified people in these positions in order to accomplish our objectives, which is to provide the least cost utilities services to the people of the CNMI and to provide it at the most efficient

form of service," said Sablan.

"I think there needs to be a review of the structure on how it is currently being managed at both the board level and the management level."

Sablan wishes that CUC board members have skills in finance, management, communication, and engineering "because of the technical aspect of the utility system [in place]."

"Right now, we do not have that capability at the board level," he said.

CUC's response to the OPA is an extension

The CUC response to the OPA audit has yet to be submitted. According to an earlier interview with executive director Gary Camacho, CUC would be making a request to extend the deadline for their response, a deadline that has expired since last Sunday.

In the OPA audit to CUC, the corporation was given 30 days to submit their response. Failure to do so would result in the OPA publishing their final report without the response of CUC, an incident that is reminiscent to past OPA audits. The draft audit was received by CUC last March 17.

According to Sablan, OPA audits that are published without the responses of CUC

is usually damaging for the corporation.

"There has been an instance in the past where the OPA has requested for responses and when those responses was given, they have finalized their audit which was not so favorable to CUC," said Sablan.

CUC's previous OPA au-

dit, which was done back in 2015, looked at how CUC board members at the time were travelling, and even deemed it as "non-compliant with the law."

A letter signed by Public Auditor David Pai back in 2015 informed CUC of violating its own travel policy and

that the OPA requests a certain action plan within a specific amount of time. CUC has failed to do so back then.

"It seemed like to them, they were ignored," recalled Sablan on the incident.

OPA then went on to publish their audit and CUC was given an unfavorable report.

Blanco: Prioritize criminalizing illegal recruitment of workers

By **JON PEREZ**
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REPORTER

Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan) stressed the importance of holding accountable employers that would use illegal means to bring in foreign workers in the CNMI. That's why House Bill 20-57, which he authored and drafted with the help of the Governor's Office, would impose penalties for illegal employment and entry.

He said that HB 20-57 is in response to the recent events that had some federal agencies getting involved in investigations of illegal recruitment and bringing in tourists to work in the Commonwealth.

Blanco added it is important to penalize people who assist and encourage the use of foreign workers in illegal immigration and unlawful employment activities.

HB 20-57, if it becomes a law, would give the CNMI Department of Labor to impose penalties and impose provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act. "Particularly Section 274, which

criminalizes activities relating to the smuggling, transport, or harboring of unauthorized aliens," said Blanco.

Blanco added HB 20-57 is a proactive approach to initial incidents involving MCC International's alleged unlawful employment practice of bringing in tourists to work here in the CNMI.

"This bill was drafted immediately following the first details of illegal immigration and unlawful employment here in the CNMI and before they were brought to light in the local media. The bill's intent is to address and prevent future incidents that threaten both our national security and our economy," he said.

Blanco, through the Congressional Research Service report, found out INA would allow states and local law enforcement to arrests anyone who violated Section 274. The CNMI follows federal immigration laws and is barred to enact its local laws.

HB 20-57 is in line with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' letter to U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary John

Kelly where the CNMI chief executive is asking the federal agency to authorize local enforcement to implement federal immigration statutes.

"The Legislature fully supports Gov. Torres' goal of cracking down on those violating immigration and labor laws that threatens our ongoing economic growth," said Blanco.

"The Governor's Office and the Legislature are cognizant of these problems and remain committed to making sure we hold these companies accountable and reiterate our belief that we do not tolerate these types of illegal practices in any shape or form."

Torres said he supports Blanco's bill since it is for the safety of the people of the CNMI. "As a policymaker you are tasked with the responsibility to not only realize the problems our islands' face, but work toward a solution. I thank Rep. Blanco on this vitally important issue and for his willingness to work collaboratively to ensure our laws allow the government the tools to crack down on this harmful practice."

USS Somerset to volunteer in community

ASAN, Guam—USS *Somerset* (LPD 25) sailors will volunteer their time to help island students during a visit to schools April 21 and 22.

On April 21 from 9:30am to 11:30am, sailors will serve as science fair judges for Kindergarten to 5th grade students at Wettengel Elementary School in Dededo.

On April 22 from 9am to 11am, volunteers will help tutor 2nd grade students in math during the Saturday Sihek Scholars program at Ligan Elementary School.

Somerset is an amphibious transport dock ship. *Somerset* is part of the Makin Island Amphibious Ready Group, operating in the U.S.

7th Fleet area of operations, with the embarked 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit, in support of security and stability in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region.

For more information, contact the Joint Region Marianas Public Affairs Office at (671) 349-4055/3209. **(PR)**



Saipan Lagoon Use Management Plan Forum



April 25, 2017

@ Fiesta Resort Hotel



What can be done to ensure sustainability of the Lagoon's resources over the coming decades? What are the current conflicts among users, and how can we manage them equitably? How are demands on the Lagoon going to change in the coming years? DCRM is updating the Saipan Lagoon Use Management Plan (SLUMP). Come to the Forum to share your thoughts and suggestions.

Public meeting to be held on April 25, 5:00pm-7:00pm
at the Azucena Room of Fiesta Resort.



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DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS in SUSUPE, SAIPAN
RFP17-GOV-114

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog through the Capital Improvement Office (CIP), (collectively, "Commonwealth") are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified contractors for the **Assessment of the Fire Sprinkler System at the Department of Correction Facility** in Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, currently in effect, and with the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC) §70-30.3-725 Gratuities and Kickbacks and §70.30.3-730 Prohibition Against Contingent Fees. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the CNMI.

The project package is available at the Governor's CIP Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan. A pre-proposal meeting regarding this project will be held on Friday, April 7, 2017, 10:00 a.m. at the CIP Office in Capitol Hill. Questions regarding the Request for Proposals shall be addressed to Ms. Elizabeth S. Balajadia, P.E., Project Manager, CIP Office, at esb.cip@gmail.com or facsimile (670) 664-2408 no later than 4:00 p.m., ChST, April 17, 2017.

The total proposal length shall not exceed 15 pages in length. A contractor that submits a proposal as a prime contractor cannot also submit as a subcontractor on another proposal. However, as a subcontractor, a company may be included in multiple proposals by different contractors.

Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 1. Qualifications and experience on similar projects | 40% |
| 2. Past Performance with Similar Projects | 40% |
| 3. Cost | 20% |

Performance time for completion of this project is 120 calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by 120 calendar days, the contract price will be assessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

Discussions shall be conducted with the top 3 ranked contractors. After a selection is made, negotiations will be conducted with the highest qualified contractor to determine the final fair and reasonable price of the contract for the work to be performed. The successful proposers will be subjected to a responsibility and responsiveness determination in compliance with Section 70-30.3-245 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

Proposals must be sealed and marked RFP17-GOV-114 "Assessment of the Fire Sprinkler System at the Department of Correction Facility" in Susupe, Saipan. For proposers within the CNMI, one original and three (3) copies of the proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascension Drive, Capitol Hill on Saipan no later than 10:00 a.m. ChST, April 26, 2017. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of intent to propose.

Notices of intent to propose must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., ChST, April 26, 2017 and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com.

For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and three (3) copies of the sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than April 26, 2017 and must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than May 5, 2017. Failure to submit the required number of copies of the proposal may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfection in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interests of the CNMI government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

Ralph DLG. Torres, Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Herman S. Sablan
Director of Procurement & Supply

Man sentenced to 5 years in jail for 'ice' possession

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A suspected trafficker of methamphetamine or "ice" pleaded guilty yesterday in Superior Court to the offense of illegal possession of a controlled substance and was slapped with the maximum sentence of five years imprisonment.

Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho ordered Songtao Gu to serve the five years in jail day for day, without the possibility of parole, probation, or early release.

Gu, 43, also known as Another Way, Little Kingdom, and Gambler, was given credit for time served. He was ordered to pay a \$2,000 fine.

Camacho directed the clerk

of court to provide the U.S. Department of Homeland Security-Immigration and Customs Enforcement a copy of the sentencing order. Gu is a Chinese national.

The Office of the Attorney General filed an information last Feb. 23 charging Gu with trafficking of controlled substance and illegal possession of controlled substance. The charges carry a total maximum sentence of 25 years prison term.

Last April 23, OAG filed an amended information that charged the defendant with only illegal possession of controlled substance. The offense carries a maximum sentence of five years prison term.

Gu has no prior conviction.

According to the factual basis of the plea deal, Gu unlawfully possessed approximately 7.7 gross grams of crystal methamphetamine on Feb. 22, 2017 on Saipan.

According to the CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force, a cooperating defendant was able to buy \$150 worth of "ice" from Gu last Feb. 17 at the latter's house in Garapan.

The cooperating defendant allegedly managed to purchase \$80 more worth of "ice" from the defendant during a "buy-walk" operation at his house last Feb. 21.

Assistant public defender Nancy Dominski served as counsel for Gu. Assistant attorney general Chester Hinds represented the government.

Govendo imposes 2-year house arrest on ex-Finance staff in embezzlement case

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo has imposed a sentence of house arrest for two years on Ana Castro Cepeda, a former Department of Finance employee who pleaded guilty for embezzling \$3,500 that was paid by some clients of the Members Home Loan program.

At the sentencing hearing on Tuesday afternoon, Govendo ordered that Cepeda may only leave her house to attend church, prayer meetings, and any kind of medical emergencies for herself, her husband, or anyone else in her family.

After serving the house arrest, Cepeda will be placed on supervised probation for one year. She was ordered to pay restitution to the CNMI government in an amount to be determined by the Office of Adult Probation, a \$1,000 fine which she may convert to 200 hours of community work service, and a \$100 in court fee.

Govendo said Cepeda shall write letters of apology to victims Fermin Sakisat, David and Doris Atalig, and the Department of Finance.

Govendo prohibited the defendant from seeking employment with the government for a period of two years pursuant to regulations.

Cepeda signed a plea deal with the government. She pleaded guilty last Jan. 20 to the offense of theft.

As part of the plead deal, the Office of the Attorney General recommended a sentence of one year imprisonment, followed by

two years of probation.

Assistant attorney general Chester Hinds appeared for the government at the sentencing hearing.

Assistant public defender Nancy Dominski, counsel for Cepeda, requested the court to impose a two-year suspended prison sentence and two years of probation.

Dominski said Cepeda's husband, Edward Cepeda, a retired police officer, suffers from disabling episodes and that she assists him greatly during these times.

Dominski said the embarrassment and humiliation the defendant has brought upon herself as a result of her actions acts as both deterrence and punishment.

"She realizes her mistake, and is ashamed and embarrassed by her actions," the defense counsel said.

OAG charged Cepeda of accepting cash payments on behalf of Finance and then keeping and ultimately spending the monies she received from April 7, 2015 to Aug. 31, 2015.

Cepeda was arrested in October 2015 on charges of five counts of theft or embezzlement, five counts of theft by unlawful taking or disposition, five counts of theft by deception, and five counts of theft by failure to make required disposition of funds received.

Office of the Public Auditor investigator Juan Santos stated in his report that their investigation started in September 2015 after Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson and the NMI Retirement Fund comptroller turned over information about theft of funds involving a Members Home Loan client's payment.

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Highly Anticipated
Saipan Tribune

"I want to be a firefighter!"
BJ Belacora, 6 yrs.

Saipan's first local postmaster honored today

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
kbautista1222@gmail.com
REPORTER

The life led by the first appointed postmaster of Saipan was a life of unassailable integrity and compassion.

Segundo Tudela Sablan diligently assisted the citizens of Saipan during the Second World War in more ways than one.

Sablan is known as the first native appointed postmaster on Saipan. He didn't just establish the first post office on Saipan, but also offered his home many times as a shelter to islanders, as a temporary post office, and as the temporary office for the first Coca-Cola bottling plant on the island.

According to Sablan's daughter, Jean, her father was compassionate toward the people of Saipan who were less fortunate than they were. This is what continues

to make her and her youngest brother, Ron, extremely proud of their father.

According to Jean and Ron, Sablan was compassionate, humble, and well respected and this is why he was selected by the federal government to run the first federal building on Saipan, which was the post office.

Sablan would sacrifice holidays with his family for the people of Saipan. He worked to ensure that the people of Saipan would receive mail that arrived on the holidays. No amount of rain, flood or typhoon, he was there to serve and deliver.

Today, after the many years following his death, the Chalan Kanoa post office will finally be dedicated as a memorial for the late Segundo Tudela Sablan and the many fallen heroes that fought alongside Sablan during the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Segundo Tudela Sablan is shown here in this undated photo.

Pacific War.

As the dedication day of the post office approaches, Jean and Ron told *Saipan Tribune* that they would also like to acknowledge the people that assisted their father in developing the post office of Saipan. The names that Jean could recall were Mrs. Brown,

Dolores Benavente, Mathilda Villagomez Guerrero, Inez Seman Ada, and Esther Seman Chong, who for over 10 years was acting postmaster.

Aside from being the island's first postmaster, Sablan also served as an interpreter for the Japanese army during World War II. Because



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Segundo Tudela Sablan, Saipan's first postmaster, is seen here posing with his family in this undated photo.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

GES kindergarten student registration starts today

Registration of kindergarten students for school year 2017-2018 at Garapan Elementary School will start today, April 20.

The registration times are from 8am to 4:30pm at the GES library.

New students registration for grades 1 to 5, meanwhile, will begin on June 7, 2017.

The requirements for registration include the following:

- Birth certificate
- School Entrance Health Certificate from CHC or a private clinic (If you have an ap-

pointment slip please provide the school with a copy showing the appointment date)

■ Copy of updated Health Insurance (Medicaid, Moylan's, Traders Insurance, Aetna, Staywell, etc.)

■ Map to residence (please be aware of the zoning policy).

GES also reminded parents and guardians of the following:

■ Child must be 5 years old to enter kindergarten. Dates of birth must be on or before Sept. 30, 2012.

■ Child must be 6 years old to enter first grade. Dates of birth must be before Sept. 30, 2011.

GES Zoning include the villages and areas of the following:

■ North Gualo Rai to Shell Puerto Rico

■ China Town

■ Upper and Lower Navy Hill

■ Garapan Beach Road (up to Marianas Eye Institute)

GES reminded parents and guardians that a student's registration will not be entertained without all required documents. All documents must be updated!

For more information, call GES at 237-3341 or 664-3951. (PR)

Kagman cluster schools set PTSA meeting today

This is to inform all parents, guardians, and the community that the Kagman cluster schools will be having a PTSA meeting on today, April 20, 2017, from 5pm to 6pm at the Kagman Elementary School cafeteria. We are encouraging all parents and guardians to attend this meeting. Please call the school at 237-3921 or 664-4100 if you have any question or concerns. Your support and understanding is appreciated. (PR)

COMMONWEALTH LOTTERY COMMISSION

PUBLIC NOTICE

A Special Meeting of the Commonwealth Lottery Commission will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 25, 2017 at the Juan Sablan Memorial Building on Capitol Hill, Saipan. The public is invited to attend.

The following is the proposed agenda

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call/Determination of Quorum
- III. Public Comment
- IV. Adoption of Agenda
- V. Adoption of Minutes
- VI. New Business
 - A. Discussion on proposed amendments to exclusive casino license on the following items
 - a. The Live Training Facility 6 months extension
 - b. Initial Gaming Facility (IGF)
 - c. Community Benefit Fund
 - d. Implementation Schedules
 - e. Casino License Fee

- VII. Executive Session
- VIII. Adjournment

For further information, please contact the Lottery Commission by telephone through the Office of the Finance Secretary at 664-1100.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BARTLEY)
DAMASO DEMAPAN) FCD-DI
Petitioner,) CIVIL ACTION NO.
vs.) 17-0007
MYCA DIANNE LIANES)
ORIGENES DEMAPAN) SUMMONS
Respondent,) FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 505419 CK, Saipan MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at PO Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 4th day of January, 2017.
/s/ Clerk of Court

TINIAN CASINO GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION

Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(A), the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission (TCGCC) hereby gives notice that it will hold its Regular Meeting on Wednesday, April 26, 2017, at 9:00 a.m. at the TCGCC Hearing Room.

AGENDA

- I. PRELIMINARY
 - a. Call to Order
 - b. Roll Call
 - c. Adoption of Agenda
 - d. Adoption of Minutes
 - 1) March 30, 2017
 - 2) March 4, 2016
 - 3) February 12, 2015
 - 4) September 25, 2014
 - 5) September 24, 2014
 - 6) September 11, 2014
- II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- III. REPORTS
 - a. Chair's Report
 - b. Executive Director's Report
- IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
- V. NEW BUSINESS
- VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION²
- VII. MISCELLANEOUS/ ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
- VIII. ADJOURNMENT

¹Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.
²Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Commission may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB17-SAR-129
SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 08, 2017 TIME: 9:30 A.M.

**"PURCHASE OF TWO (2) RIDING MOWERS AND MOWER MAINTENANCE
SUPPLIES FOR THE OFFICE OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE & REHABILITATION"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301 CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ YVETTE R. SABLAN
SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE
& REHABILITATION

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR OF P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB17-SAR-135
SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 03, 2017 TIME: 9:30 A.M.

**"PURCHASE OF A CLASS "J" VEHICLE FOR THE OFFICE
OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE & REHABILITATION"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301 CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

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/s/ YVETTE R. SABLAN
SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE & REHABILITATION

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR OF P&S

POLKSAI Chamorro Club golden in Guam tilt

Marianas High School POLKSAI Chamorro Club brought home six gold, four silver, and two bronze medals after competing at the 2017 Inacha'igen Fino Chamorro Language Competition in Guam on March 12-13, 2017.

The theme for this competition was I FINO' CHAMORU: Ta Hungok, Ta Li'e', Ta Sangan, pues Nihi ta Manti-eni! This will be their 12th time to compete in this event. The

competition event included the following categories: Oratorical, Poetry Recitation, Proficiency, Individual Female and Male singing, Song with Dance, Umestoria, Kantan Chamorrita, and Dramatic Cultural Interpretation.

The breakdown of the club's medal wins are as follows:

■ 1st Place - Oratorical (Elyshia Pangelinan)

■ 2nd Place - Poetry (Toremy Diaz)

■ 2nd Place - Female Singer (Laurina Sebaklim)

■ 3rd Place - Male Singer (Jack Rabago)

■ 1st Place - Umestoria (10th Grade Division) Jack Rabago

■ 1st Place - Umestoria (11th Grade Division) Elyshia Pangelinan

Proficiency (Reading Comprehension Test, Reading Out-loud, and Impromptu).



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marianas High School POLKSAI Chamorro Club members pose for a group after its victorious run in the 2017 Inacha'igen Fino Chamorro Language Competition in Guam on March 12-13, 2017.

Community invited to SAFE Jamboree on April 29

The Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence and the Family Violence Task Force are inviting community members to the 7th Annual S.A.F.E. Jamboree on Saturday, April 29, from 11am to 5pm at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium in Susupe.

The S.A.F.E. Jamboree is an afternoon of family fun

with live entertainment, food vendor, games and other types of activity centers. The event will also feature exhibits by community agencies and programs.

The S.A.F.E. Jamboree is part of Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) activities and events.

"S.A.F.E. stands for Safe, Aware, Free and Empower,

which are also values we try to support and nurture in our community to help educate and to empower others to speak out against sexual assault," said NMCADSV executive director Maisie B. Tenorio.

Tenorio added, "We also hope this event will help show support for victims and survivors and to also inform others about what resources or programs are available to help them."

In addition, the first 200 participants who register at the S.A.F.E. Jamboree will receive a free SAAM 2017 T-shirt. Raffle prizes will also be given out throughout the event.

For more information, contact the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence at (670) 234-3878 or email info@endviolencenmi.org. For more news and updates, follow NMCADSV on Facebook, Twitter (@EndViolenceNMI) and Instagram (@nmcadsv). (PR)

Hong Ye Corp., GPPC causes cable damage to IT&E



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Contractors Hong Ye Corp. and GPPC Inc. caused a total of 325 pairs of cable damage the past couple of days that affected IT&E's residential landlines, DSL, and internet services on the island.

This week, two contractors caused damage to several pairs of cable in San Roque and Oleai.

Contractor Hong Ye Corp. damaged 25 pairs of cable in the San Roque area on Tuesday affecting residential landlines and internet services.

Yesterday afternoon contractor GPPC Inc. caused a total of 300 pairs of cable damage in front of Payless Shoe Source affecting landline and DSL for businesses and residential customers.

IT&E has isolated the issue and would like to apologize for the temporary outages caused by contractors this week. The public and all contractors are reminded that they are required to contact IT&E seven days before any digging activity so that IT&E cables can be properly marked to prevent these outages and inconveniences to our customers.

Affected customers are being asked to inform CallCenterLeads@itechq.net. (IT&E)

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- **Wednesday, April 26th** 8:30am - 4:00pm
 - **Thursday, April 27th** 8:30am - 4:00pm
- at Marianas Medical Center in Garapan*



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*Board Certified in Hearing
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Email: rosshearingaids@yahoo.com

Opinion

Hafa Adai! Saipan Tribune

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AP The Associated Press

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EDITORIAL

Trump's tough talk on Korea

America's posture toward North Korea has changed, Trump administration officials insist. Vice President Mike Pence, visiting South Korea, declared that "era of strategic patience is over" and warned the north not to test President Donald Trump's resolve or the strength of the U.S. military forces in the region.

But what does that mean? Does Trump really intend to take pre-emptive action against the North Korean nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programs? Or is his saber rattling — moving an aircraft carrier battle group to the Korean peninsula and pointing to his missile strikes in Syria and use of a massive conventional bomb in Afghanistan — merely intended to frighten North Korean leader Kim Jong Un into capitulation? Either way, it's a dangerous game, for the United States, for both Koreas, for Japan and for China. This decades-long standoff already has one unpredictable, ruthless and reckless leader. It doesn't need two.

During the campaign, Trump had a simplistic view of North Korea as a client state of China that could be brought to heel at Beijing's whim. After a tutorial at Mar-a-Lago from Chinese President Xi Jinping, President Trump has come to the conclusion that "it's not so easy." In an interview with the Wall Street Journal last week, he added, "I felt pretty strongly that they had a tremendous power (over) North Korea. ... But it's not what you would think." The next day, he tweeted "I have great confidence that China will properly deal with North Korea. If they are unable to do so, the U.S., with its allies, will! U.S.A." Then on Sunday he tweeted "Why would I call China a currency manipulator when they are working with us on the North Korean problem? We will see what happens!"

If there is any consistent thread there, besides the president voicing whatever pops into his head at any given moment, we're at a loss to discern it. China can't control North Korea. Or it can. But we don't need it to. Or it might if Trump stops calling it a currency manipulator, which it isn't.

There are no good options to curtail North Korea's nuclear ambitions. China can bring economic pressure to bear on the north, but it also doesn't want to risk a sudden collapse of the Pyongyang government — and the flood of refugees that would pour across its border. We can engage in covert operations to sabotage North Korea's weapons programs, and a recent string of failures in ballistic missile tests, including one this weekend, suggest we may be having some success at it. But that won't stop the programs altogether. And military strikes threaten disaster that would make the Syrian civil war appear a minor problem by comparison. North Korea's forces are heavily dug-in and are capable of inflicting massive damage on South Korea. We cannot contain them with a few air strikes.

Trump prizes being unpredictable, but that trait is only likely to make the Kim regime more committed to its nuclear program. The North Korean leadership is reportedly fixated on the case of Libyan strongman Moammar Gadhafi, who gave up his nuclear program voluntarily only to find himself

See TRUMP'S on Next Page



Time for Kurdish independence?

ERBIL, Iraq — Has the time for Kurdish independence finally arrived?

No other Mideast community (except Israel) has a closer relationship with the United States than the Iraqi Kurds, who have played a critical role in confronting the Islamic State.

With the jihadis on the run, the Kurds of Iraq believe the time is ripe to transform their semi-autonomous region into a sovereign state. Their leaders have decided to hold a long-awaited referendum asking Iraqi Kurds to endorse independence.

"Yes, there will be a referendum this year. No question," I was told by Kurdish Prime Minister Nechirvan Barzani in his ornate office here in the Kurdish regional capital. "The outcome doesn't mean we will immediately embark (on independence) but it will show the international community what the population wants."

Yet the Kurds can't succeed without U.S. support, and Washington still insists Iraq must remain one unified country. That position needs updating.

It's time for Washington to refocus on the future of the Iraqi Kurds.

The Kurdish people have been dreaming of independence for nearly a century since the great powers reneged on a promise to carve a Kurdish state out of the remains of the Ottoman Empire. Instead of giving this non-Arab ethnic group a national home, the World War I allies parceled out the beautiful, mountainous Kurdish lands to Turkey, Syria, Iraq and Iran.

However, Iraqi Kurds have had a growing degree of autonomy since 1991, when the United States set up a no-fly zone over their region to protect them from attacks by Saddam Hussein. This enabled them to establish a de facto government, which took on aspects of a state after Washington ousted Hussein in 2003.

Today, Kurdistan is the most stable and tolerant part of Iraq, and it has become a refuge for Christians and other minorities fleeing the Islamic State.

Moreover, the Kurdish region has become vital to U.S. security interests in the region: The Kurds are pro-American and have no animosity toward Israel. U.S. humanitarian agencies can work easily in Kurdistan. And, since the battle with the Islamic State began, the Kurdish region has become a base for a modest contingent of U.S. forces.

Meantime, in crushing the Islamic State, Kurdish forces have reclaimed large chunks of "disputed" Iraqi territory that they consider theirs, including the city of Kirkuk.

Now the Kurds want to consolidate their gains. "We can't go back to the old days," says Barzani. "Iraq after (the battle for)

By TRUDY RUBIN
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer. Readers may write to her at: Philadelphia Inquirer, P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or by email at trubin@phillynews.com.



Mosul is not the same as Iraq before Mosul."

However, the Kurds also know they need a peaceful divorce from Iraq in order to resolve key issues concerning boundaries, oil, pipelines and finances. "Our position is to have a serious dialogue with Baghdad and come to an amicable solution," says Barzani. Yet, he says, there has been "no progress at all" in meetings between top Kurdish and Iraqi officials.

The (unexpectedly) close military cooperation between Iraqi and Kurdish military forces has not translated into political gains. For example, while Baghdad pays salaries for Shiite militias, it has paid nothing to Kurdish fighters, who have suffered heavy losses. (Washington has been paying peshmerga salaries). Baghdad has even cut medical supplies to Erbil, although the Kurds have been treating wounded Iraqi soldiers and refugees.

Still, one has to ask whether talk of independence is just bravado.

The Kurds face steep opposition from neighboring countries. Iran, with its own restive Kurds, is dead set against the idea. And Tehran is pressing the government in Baghdad to stand firm.

When visiting Washington, Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi blew off a question on Kurdish independence, quipping, "We're discussing it." (Perhaps it's progress that he didn't say, "Never, no way.")

Then there's Turkey, whose assent would be vital, since landlocked Kurdistan's oil pipelines transit that country. Surprisingly, Turkey has good political and economic relations with Erbil. "Officially, we have not addressed this issue with Turkey," says Barzani, "but we think they are ready to listen."

Perhaps. Ankara does appear to view the Iraqi Kurds as an ally against Turkish PKK rebels and the PKK-linked Kurds of northern Syria. Moreover, Iraqi Kurds make clear that they aren't interested in linking up with Kurdish separation movements in neighboring lands.

But imagining Turkish acquiescence is a stretch.

See TIME on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

THE CONSUMER CAUTION CORNER

Unwanted telemarketing calls and the ‘National Do-Not-Call List’

By **MICHAEL J. CYGANEK**
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

This week, the Office of the Attorney General’s “Consumer Caution Corner” outlines the Federal Communications Commission’s guidance on how to best avoid unwanted telemarketing calls by utilizing the “National Do-Not-Call List.”

Overview: Telephone Consumer Protection Act

Under the Telephone Consumer Protection Act, the FCC has rules in effect that address unsolicited telephone marketing calls – including those using automated and prerecorded messages. Under current FCC rules:

- Anyone making a telephone solicitation call to your home must provide his or her name, the name of the person or entity on whose behalf the call is being made, and a telephone number or address at which that person or entity can be contacted.

- Telephone solicitation calls to your home are prohibited before 8 am or after 9 pm.

- Telemarketers must comply immediately with any do-not-call request you make during a solicitation call.

What is the National Do-Not-Call List and how does it work?

In 2003, in an effort to increase consumer protection, the FCC helped establish the national Do-Not-Call list with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). The national Do-Not-Call list protects home voice or personal wireless phone numbers only. Once you have placed your home phone number or numbers, including any personal wireless phone numbers, on the national Do-Not-Call list, callers are prohibited from making telephone solicitations to those number(s). Your number(s) will remain on the list until you remove them or discontinue service – there is no need to re-register numbers.

You can register your home phone number or wireless numbers on the national Do-Not-Call list by phone or by Internet at no cost. To add a phone number to the national Do-Not-Call list via the Internet, go to www.donotcall.gov.

Telemarketers have up to thirty-one (31) days from the date that you register your telephone number to remove it from their call lists and stop calling you.

What is a telephone solicitation?

A telephone solicitation is a telephone call that acts as an advertisement. However, some phone solicitations are permissible under FCC rules, including: calls or messages placed with your express prior permission, by or on behalf of a tax-exempt nonprofit organization, or from a person or organization. However, having an established

business relationship no longer meets the rules for permissible unsolicited calls to your landline phone. Companies and telemarketers must have your express permission to call.

If I continue to receive such calls, what can I do?

If you receive a telephone solicitation that you think violates any of the FCC rules, you can file a complaint with the FCC. The FCC can issue warning citations and impose fines against com-

panies violating or suspected of violating the do-not-call rules, but does not award individual damages.

Filing a complaint

You have multiple options for filing a complaint with the FCC:

- File a complaint online at <https://consumercomplaints.fcc.gov>

- By phone: 1-888-CALL-FCC (1-888-225-5322); TTY: 1-888-TELL-FCC (1-888-835-5322); ASL: 1-844-432-2275

- By mail (please include your name, address, contact information and as much detail about your complaint as possible):

Federal Communications Commission
Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau
Consumer Inquiries and Complaints Division
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Each week, the OAG’s Consumer Protection Education Program shares FTC or FCC publications that provide consumers and businesses with the “know-how” to identify and protect themselves from unfair trade practices and marketplace schemes. If you would like to file a Consumer Complaint, please pick up a Form at the OAG (in Capitol Hill) or request one by email from consumer_counsel@cnmioag.org. After completing the Consumer Complaint, please submit it by email or in-person. We cannot act as your private attorney. If you need legal assistance, we will recommend that you contact a private attorney or legal aid organization. We cannot give legal advice or act as your private attorney.

Michael J. Cyganek is the consumer counsel of the Office of the Attorney General.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The American Dream: Thanks Gov. Torres

The governor’s State of the Commonwealth Address was truly centered on the American Dream. The American Dream is something that immigrants and Americans live and even die for every day. The challenge since the signing of the Covenant has been to set the conditions in the CNMI for the American Dream to be accessible for all living in the CNMI.

Torres is a “Dreamer” and he made it known in his SOCA—thank God, kudos, and thanks governor. I have witnessed many SOCAs by several governors and one governor who adamantly opposed our relationship in the American family which is why I must say Torres has surpassed some of his predecessors in setting the right course for our Commonwealth’s quest for the American Dream.

Torres is truly at the forefront of change in the CNMI and he is leading instead of reacting which can make all the difference in finding prosperity for the people and the CNMI. He has truly demonstrated his capacity for leadership in many ways but what impressed me the most was the fact that he has clearly established a genuine working relationship with our President and the White House which is something I don’t think any previous Governor has accomplished at such a high level. The governor’s working relationship with the President is a true sign of leadership with a big plus or star for his administration and for the CNMI—a relationship he said he intends to use to help his people.

It was clear to me that the governor fully realizes there are many youth who can pursue their American Dream in the CNMI and that some have to leave for college and other opportunities that are not offered here which is also being reflected in the ideology of our new Education Commissioner Cynthia Deleon Guerrero who is off to a great start. The governor has made it clear that his administration will be working to help our youth, our education institutions and the people of our Commonwealth in attaining the needs and goals related to our future workforce which must include the CW workforce. He was right when he said “if we put every local in a job it will still not be enough to fill all the jobs we need to have a thriving economy”—so we must accept the facts and learn to live with and fight for the CW work

force. Speaking of fighting, even though the governor is aspiring the American Dream for us he fully realizes and is willing to fight the federal government on issues that are not in the best interest of the CNMI and I’m sure his good relationship with the President will prove be pivotal in our favor on many issues. Being a black man who grew up fighting in the Civil Rights Movement I know you have to fight “our fathers in Washington” in the right battles to make the feds get it right.

The governor recognizes our need to grow in order to address the many challenges we face in helping all citizens, not just locals because “we will all find prosperity together or continue to flounder in despair.” (*Ambrose M. Bennett, 2001*)

The governor made it clear that we need everyone to be part of the solution. He also mentioned how NMC is just not providing the labor pool of nurses that is needed and we saw this coming years ago or at least I saw it coming years ago but no one listened to me back then, maybe now time has changed the powers-that-be. So here is a possible solution again, why not start and “Educational Exchange Program” with the Philippine government to train nurses since they are so successful in turning out nurses given most of the nurses at CHC comes from the Philippines. We need to be building relationships by collaborating and working with the government of the Philippines instead of a “one-way” arrangement to import CW labor—a win-win-win scenario.

Ambrose M. Bennett

Retired educator

TRUMP'S

From Page 10

ousted and killed a few years later in a Western-backed revolution. Trump’s belligerence and volatility only deepen North Korean paranoia and reinforce the logic of its nuclear ambitions.

At one point, Trump suggested he could solve the whole problem if he could sit down and have a sandwich with Kim (an idea the official Twitter account of the North Korean news service called the “ignorant daydream of a deluded simpleton”). The North Korean situation isn’t a run of the mill misunderstanding, and it isn’t an opportunity for Trumpian deal-making. Talking tough won’t strengthen the American position; it will make Kim dig in deeper.

The weekend came and went without a nuclear test by North Korea, but we would caution the Trump administration not to

TIME

From Page 10

And yet, it is still important for Washington to consider the question of Kurdish independence.

Once the Islamic State caliphate is defeated, the future of the fractured Iraqi state will hang in the balance. The only way for Iraqi leaders to hold the country together is to decentralize, permitting discontented Sunnis in Mosul and elsewhere to set up federal regions, and to negotiate a new deal with the Kurds.

If Baghdad heads in that direction it might entice the Kurds to remain linked to Iraq in a confederation (a linkage between two independent states). However, such an outcome would require intense intermediation by the United States to ease the gap between Baghdad and Erbil and to counter pressures from Iran.

Is the Trump administration capable, or willing to help the Kurds achieve their goals? Unclear. The White House might be enticed by the fact that Kurdistan would provide a stable locale to base a continued U.S. troop presence. “If the United States is in need of having a base in Kurdistan our leadership would welcome it,” says Barzani.

Bottom line: If Washington wants to balance Iran in the Middle East and stabilize Iraq, it must deal head-on with the Kurdish issue.






“If the Americans want a united Iraq, in practical terms it doesn’t exist any more,” says Barzani. “If they want stability, they have to deal with the core issue of Kurdistan.”

read that as a validation of its strategy. Speculation that the regime intended time the test to the birthday of Kim’s late grandfather may simply have been incorrect. Regardless, there is little reason to doubt that the regime will go forward with another test soon in its quest to build a smaller and more powerful warhead. We need to be in a position to respond with something more than military threats.

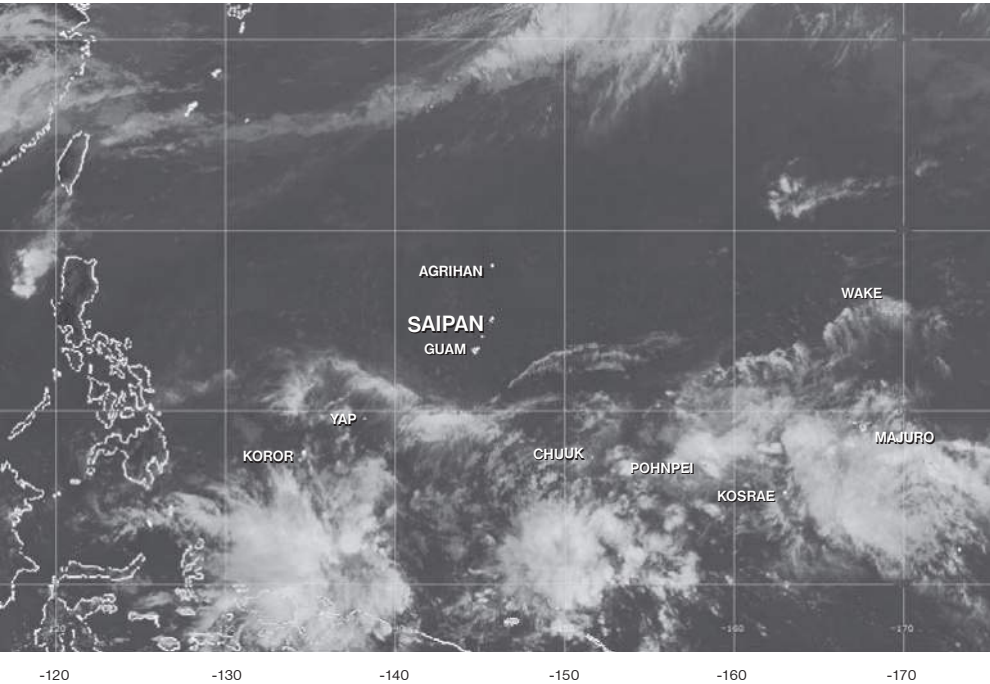
There are signs that China’s leadership may be willing to engage in a range of diplomatic strategies with the United States and its allies to contain the North Korean threat. We can only take advantage of that if Trump trades his bellicose rhetoric for calm, steady determination. Kim appears to believe he is already in a life-and-death struggle with the United States. The last thing we need to do is to encourage him.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
				
Intervals of clouds and sunshine	Sunshine and clouds mixed.	Scattered clouds with the possibility of an isolated thunderstorm developing during the afternoon.	Variable clouds with scattered showers and thunderstorms, mainly in the afternoon.	Mixed clouds and sun with scattered thunderstorms.
▲ 86° ▼ 78°	▲ 86° ▼ 78°	▲ 86° ▼ 78°	▲ 86° ▼ 78°	▲ 86° ▼ 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 5:29 AM, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A small area of clouds and showers just to the east of the Marianas could be seen on satellite this morning. This area appears to be the result of weak trade-wind convergence combined with favorable upper-level winds. There is an upper-level trough at 200 mb that is probably assisting in generating the showers. GFS20 does show this area and weakens it through the morning. While some of the clouds may make it to the islands, partly cloudy skies should prevail through the day.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	89 79 °F
Palau	Partly Cloudy	87 78 °F
Yap	Thunderstorms	86 71 °F
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	84 79 °F
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	84 79 °F
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85 79 °F
Majuro	Thunderstorms	83 79 °F

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Sunny	66 55 °F
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	72 50 °F
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	81 75 °F
Honolulu	Cloudy	83 71 °F
London	Cloudy	60 46 °F
Los Angeles	Sunny	79 57 °F
Manila	Partly Cloudy	95 80 °F
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	78 58 °F
Miami	Partly Cloudy	80 70 °F
New York	Cloudy	65 57 °F
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	67 55 °F
Paris	Mostly Sunny	58 34 °F
Pusan	Cloudy	64 48 °F
Rome	Sunny	61 42 °F
Salem	Partly Cloudy	57 40 °F
San Francisco	Sunny	64 51 °F
Seoul	Rain	59 43 °F
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	67 52 °F
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	83 64 °F



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
3:09 AM	HIGH TIDE		1.66
8:56 AM	LOW TIDE		1.14
1:20 PM	HIGH TIDE		1.44
8:43 PM	LOW TIDE		0.23

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:59 AM	6:32 PM
Friday	5:59 AM	6:32 PM
Saturday	5:58 AM	6:32 PM
Sunday	5:58 AM	6:32 PM
Monday	5:57 AM	6:32 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	1:00 AM	12:45 PM	-
Friday	1:46 AM	1:37 PM	-
Saturday	2:32 AM	2:30 PM	-
Sunday	3:17 AM	3:25 PM	-
Monday	4:02 AM	4:22 PM	-

NEWS DESK

For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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ADVERTISING

For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 25, 2017

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily	UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily	UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota	UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6	UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily	UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily	UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL297	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily	DL298	10:25am	2:55pm	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	2:35am	6:25am	Daily	LJ651	8:25am	1:45pm	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1	ZE581	10:15am	3:35pm	Daily
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily	OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
LJ652	3:10pm	7:05pm	Daily	TW307	8:15pm	1:35am+1	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily	OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
ZE582	4:25pm	8:35pm	Daily	7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	2:55am	6:10am	1, 7	7C3452	8:30pm	1:20am+1	6, 7
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7	OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6
7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	4, 5	7C3452	9:35pm	2:15am+1	3, 4
SAIPAN-JEJU (CJU)				JEJU (CJU)-SAIPAN			
7C3433	3:55am	7:30am	3, 7	7C3434	10:05pm	2:40am+1	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	5:20am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:50am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6	3U8645	7:50pm	2:40am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:10am	10:50am	1 via ICN	UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM	OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:30am	Daily via GUM	PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM	UA192/6395	10:20pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM	UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	11:10pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR	UA184/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM				
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM				
UA6390/193	2:20pm	11:10pm	2 via GUM-ROR				
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
UO43	4:40am	8:10am	1, 3, 4, 6	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
HX077	2:15am	5:15am	1, 4	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	HX076	5:50pm	12:45am+1	3, 7
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	UO42	4:50pm	12:05am+1	2, 6
UA6391/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM	UO42	6:05pm	1:10am+1	1
UA6390/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM	UO42	6:10pm	1:10am+1	4
				UA116/6395	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN			SAIPAN TO TINIAN		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily	12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily			
SAIPAN TO ROTA			ROTA TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

Five Chinese travel and lifestyle media outlets recently visited The Marianas on a FAM(iliarization) tour that will bring nearly half a million dollars in media exposure to Rota, Tinian, and Saipan. The three islands were visited on March 30-April 5, 2017, on a trip organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority.

On Saipan, the group attended a workshop in organic soap-making at Mariana Ocean and also experienced mwar-making and indigenous dance. After a photo-op flight to Tinian, the group snorkeled at Turtle Cove and Coral Garden. An island tour included historic World War II sites at North Field and scenic sites including Blow Hole, Chulu Beach, the latte stone monoliths of House of Taga, and the sunset at Taga Beach. Lunch and dinner were hosted by JC Café.

Flying on to Rota, the group started with an island tour featuring Songsong Lookout, Tonga Cave, Twerksberry Beach and coconut plantation, Teteto Beach, Rota Swimming Hole, I'Chenchon Bird Sanctuary, and As Nieves Latte Stone Quarry. Day 1 on Rota also featured authentic Chamorro food at As Paris restaurant and barbeque dinner at Rota Resort & Country Club. The following day, the media interviewed Rota Mayor Efraim Atalig before returning to Saipan.

Resuming their tour of The Marianas on its most populous island of Saipan, the group visited Laolao Bay Golf & Resort and took a tour of historic and scenic Marpi, capping off their tour with a visit to award-winning Managaha for watersports. The media also experienced dining at Himawari, Pacific Islands Club's Seaside Grill, and aboard the *Stars & Stripes* for a sunset dinner cruise.

"This month's travel and lifestyle FAM tour was notable in that the media spent a bit more time on each island and discovered the unique charms of Rota, Tinian, and Saipan," said MVA Marketing manager Bruce Bateman.

Travel and lifestyle in the Marianas



Chinese media meet Rota Mayor Efraim Atalig on April 3, 2017, while touring the Marianas.



Participating media were *China National Tourism Magazine*, circulating 500,000 copies monthly to highly educated, high-income professionals; *Ceci*, circulating 550,000 copies monthly targeting young women and the domestic fashion market with fashion travel reports; *The Discerning Life*, circulating 100,000 copies monthly to high-income readers; and *Voyage*, circulating 518,000 copies monthly to high-end business travelers. (PR)

Chinese media visit Songsong Lookout on Rota in the Marianas on April 2, 2017. Their FAM(iliarization) tour was organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority.



Chinese media visit House of Taga on the island Tinian in the Marianas on April 1, 2017.



Chinese media experience organic soap-making at Mariana Ocean in Saipan in The Marianas on March 30, 2017.

Military training at FDM on April 17-21

CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, in conjunction with U.S. Naval Forces Marianas (N3) Guam, would like to inform the general public that the U.S. Navy and Air Force will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Mendinilla from April 17 to 21, 9am-6pm.

The general location of this activity will be at Farallon de Mendinilla on a 12-nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

Due to the danger imposed by these activities, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is strongly advising the general public

especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators to stay away from these areas during the time and dates indicated.

The cooperation and understanding of the general public is greatly appreciated. For more information, contact the Joint Region Marianas Public Affairs Office at (671) 349-4055/3209. Or the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at telephone number (670) 237-8000, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0 or dial CNMI 211 for this advisory. (PR)

Red Cross Disaster Institute to be held on Saipan

The American Red Cross-NMI Chapter has some exciting free classes lined up this month as we plan for our 2017 American Red Cross Disaster Institute.

The international humanitarian group will be flying

instructors in from California and Hawaii to teach disaster classes on April 21 and 22 at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. Lunch and snacks will be provided. Deepen your skill set, work alongside

other fabulous Red Cross Volunteers in the CNMI, and help increase the NMI Chapter's capacity to respond to disasters at home and abroad!

Please visit [http://pacificdivision.weebly.com/saipan-](http://pacificdivision.weebly.com/saipan-disaster-institute-april-21-22.html)

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Noon	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
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Business

United CEO: No one will be fired for dragging incident

By DAVID KOENIG
AP AIRLINES WRITER

The CEO of United Airlines says no one will be fired over the dragging of a man off a plane—including himself.

CEO Oscar Munoz said Tuesday that he takes full responsibility “for making this right,” and he promised more details later this month after United finishes a review of its policies on overbooked flights.

Company executives said it’s too soon to know if the incident is hurting ticket sales.

United has been pummeled on social media—#BoycottUnited is a popular hashtag—and late-night television. Through Tuesday, its shares have fallen 4.4 percent since Flight 3411, wiping out nearly \$1 billion in market value, although some other airline stocks also declined in the same period.

After the market closed Monday, United reported a \$96 million first-quarter profit, down 69 percent from a year earlier largely because of higher costs for fuel, labor and maintenance. The revenue picture was looking better—evidence was growing that after two years of falling average fares, United will be able to push prices higher this year.

On a conference call to discuss those results, Munoz

started by apologizing again for the April 9 scene on a United Express plane at Chicago’s O’Hare airport. David Dao, a 69-year-old Kentucky physician, was bloodied and dragged off the plane by Chicago airport officers who had been summoned by United employees when Dao wouldn’t give up his seat. The three officers have all been suspended.

Munoz and other executives vowed to treat customers with dignity, and said that what happened to Dao will never happen again.

Munoz’s early statements on the incident were widely criticized. He initially supported employees and blamed Dao, calling him “disruptive and belligerent.” On Tuesday, he was asked if the company ever considered firing anyone, including management.

“I’m sure there was lots of conjecture about me personally,” said Munoz. He noted that the board of United Continental Holdings Inc. has supported him.

“It was a system failure across various areas,” Munoz continued. “There was never a consideration for firing an employee.”

Dao’s lawyers have taken steps that foreshadow a lawsuit against the airline and the city of Chicago, which oper-

ates O’Hare Airport.

United announced two rule changes last week, including saying that it will no longer call police to remove passengers from overbooked planes. It is not clear whether United oversold Flight 3411, but the flight became overbooked when four Republic Airline employees showed up after passengers had boarded and demanded seats so they could commute to their next assignment, a United Express flight the next morning.

Some politicians and consumer advocates have called for a ban on overselling flights. Munoz declined to address that or other possible changes until the airline finishes a review by April 30.

Even in normal times, airlines closely—even daily—scrutinize numbers such as advance sales and occupancy levels on planes. Yet United officials said they couldn’t measure whether the dragging has affected their business.

“It’s really too early for us to tell anything about bookings and in particular last week because it was the week before Easter, that’s normally a very low booking period,” said United President Scott Kirby. He said that United’s forecast for the April-through-June quarter has not changed.

Wells Fargo scandal weighs heavily on other big banks

DALLAS (AP)—It’s the topic the banking industry can’t avoid, even when people prefer not to mention it by name: Wells Fargo.

Banking executives and consultants who normally focus on checking accounts and credit cards spent a recent conference talking about “cross-selling” and “incentive compensation.” Those are code words for Wells Fargo, and the up to 2 million accounts that its employees opened without customer permission as they sought to meet unrealistic sales goals.

And circulating among Wells Fargo’s biggest competitors is the scathing report from the bank’s board of directors that laid blame for its toxic sales practices on negligent management.

Eager not to be the next Wells Fargo, some other big banks say they are examining their own practices against the board report and actively looking for ways to avoid any sales issues before becoming engulfed in a similar kind of scandal.

“Any major occurrence in the industry is going to impact us all,” said Richard Hunt, president of the Consumer Bankers Association, the trade and lobbying group that organized the recent CBA Live gathering.

Wells had by far the most aggressive sales goals among the big banks, and the board’s report said the problems date back at least 15 years—but that executives had little interest in dealing with the issue until it spiraled out of control. The board also reclaimed another \$75 million in pay from former CEO John Stumpf and former community bank executive Carrie Tolstedt, saying they dragged their feet for years.

That report has been making its way through top executive offices at nearly every big bank, executives said.

JPMorgan Chase’s upper management is reviewing the report, Chief Financial Officer Marianne Lake said last week. The same is happening over at Citigroup. Both banks have looked at their own sales behav-

ior, and say they found nothing amiss. Bank of America Chief Financial Officer Paul Dinofrio declined to say whether executives reviewed the report, but stressed “we feel good about our sales practices.”

For the industry, the next potential shoe to drop will likely be from federal bank regulator the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, whose bank examiners are currently combing through each of big bank sales programs. Their findings are expected this summer. And the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau is also doing its own investigation.

In the meantime, it was clear at CBA Live that managers were actively searching for ideas on how to stop what happened at Wells from potentially occurring at their banks.

“We need to do a better job in teaching our front-line employees to speak up when something doesn’t smell right,” Ed Dwyer, chief risk officer for community banking at U.S. Bank, said to fellow bank executives in a panel.

Nation

Fresno shooter wanted to kill many white people, police say

FRESNO, Calif. (AP)—A man wanted in the slaying of a security guard set out to kill as many white people as he could on Tuesday, gunning down three men on the streets of downtown Fresno before he was captured and admitted to the shootings, authorities said.

Kori Ali Muhammad, 39, was arrested shortly after the morning rampage that left three white men dead, police said. Muhammad, who is black, fired 16 rounds in less than two minutes at four places within a block, shooting men who appeared to be going about their day, authorities say.

During his arrest, Muhammad shouted “Allahu akbar,” but Fresno Police Chief Jerry Dyer said the shootings had “nothing to do with terrorism in spite of the statement he made.”

“This is solely based on race,” Dyer told reporters.

Authorities say Muhammad first walked up to a utility truck and shot a Pacific Gas & Electric Co. employee sitting in the passenger seat. The driver of the truck, who is Latino, sped off to the police department for help, but the worker, a 34-year-old white man, died.

Muhammad then shot at another person and missed, police said. He aimed at a



Stephen Hughes, 66, stands outside his house in Fresno, Calif., where he came home minutes after a shooting to find a body on the sidewalk in front of his home, Tuesday, April 18, 2017.

third, killing the 37-year-old on the sidewalk as he walked with a bag of groceries in a neighborhood lined with tall trees, authorities say. The final victim, 58, was gunned down in the parking lot of a charity building.

Dyer said Muhammad approached a vehicle in between shootings, but he spared the lives of two women who were in the car with a child. The women were Latina, he said.

“These individuals who were chosen today did not do anything to deserve what they got,” Dyer said. “These were unprovoked attacks by an individual that was intent on carrying out homicides

today. He did that.”

Police had put out a news release hours before the shootings Tuesday, saying that Muhammad was armed and dangerous and wanted in the shooting death of a security guard at a Motel 6 last week. The guard, 25-year-old Carl Williams, was white.

Muhammad told officers at his arrest that he was the guy they were looking for, Dyer said.

“I did it. I shot them,” Dyer said Muhammad told officers.

Police are searching for the revolver Muhammad said he tossed into a pile of clothing. The gun may have been picked up by someone else, Dyer said.

Trump targets visa program he says hurts American workers

KENOSHA, Wis. (AP)—Turning back to the economic populism that helped drive his election campaign, President Donald Trump signed an order Tuesday he said should help American workers whose jobs are threatened by skilled immigrants.

At the headquarters of hand and power tool manufacturer Snap-on Inc., Trump signed an order that asks the government to propose new rules and changes that will stop what he called abuses in a visa program used by U.S. technology companies. Dubbed “Buy American and Hire American,” the directive follows a series of recent Trump reversals on economic policies.

“We are going to defend our workers, protect our jobs and finally put America first,” Trump declared, standing in front of an American flag fashioned out of wrenches.

Much like some prior orders, however, Trump’s executive action Tuesday essentially looks for detailed reports rather than making deci-

sive changes. In this case, the reports are about granting visas for highly skilled foreign workers and ensuring that government purchasing programs buy American made goods as required by law.

Trump chose to sign the directive at Snap-on Inc., based in Wisconsin, a state he narrowly carried in November on the strength of support from white, working-class voters. Trump currently has only a 41 percent approval rating in the state.

He campaigned last year on promises to overhaul U.S. trade and regulatory policy, but his executive orders on those issues reflect the administration bowing somewhat to the limits of presidential power. Also, he has recently reversed several populist promises, including standing up to China, which he contended was manipulating its currency and stealing American jobs, and eliminating the Export-Import Bank, which he billed as wasteful subsidy.

But Trump returned to Tuesday to the economic

tough talk of his campaign, saying: “We’re going to make some very big changes or we are going to get rid of NAFTA for once and for all,” referring to the Clinton-era U.S. trade pact with Canada and Mexico.

In his new directive, the president is targeting the H-1B visa program, which the White House says undercuts U.S. workers by bringing in large numbers of cheaper, foreign workers and driving down wages. The tech industry has argued that the H-1B program is needed because it encourages students to stay in the U.S. after getting degrees in high-tech specialties—and because companies can’t always find enough American workers with the skills they need.

The new order would direct U.S. agencies to propose rules to prevent immigration fraud and abuse in the program. They would also be asked to offer changes so that H-1B visas are awarded to the most-skilled or highest-paid applicants.

Asia

Pence says to N. Korea: 'The sword stands ready'

YOKOSUKA, Japan (AP)—From the wind-swept deck of a massive aircraft carrier, Vice President Mike Pence on Wednesday warned North Korea not to test the resolve of the U.S. military, promising it would make an “overwhelming and effective” response to any use of conventional or nuclear weapons.

Pence, dressed in a green military jacket, said aboard the hulking USS Ronald Reagan that President Donald Trump’s administration would continue to “work diligently” with allies like Japan, China and other global powers to apply economic and diplomatic pressure on Pyongyang. But he told the sailors, “as all of you know, readiness is the key.”

“The United States of America will always seek peace but under President Trump, the shield stands guard and the sword stands ready,” Pence told 2,500 sailors dressed in blue fatigues and Naval baseball caps on a sunny, windy morning aboard the carrier at the U.S. Yokosuka naval base in Tokyo Bay.

“Those who would challenge our resolve or readiness should know, we will defeat any attack and meet any use of conventional or nuclear weapons with an overwhelming and effective American response,” Pence said.

Pence also said the U.S. would protect freedom of navigation in the South China Sea, the sea lanes vital to global shipping where China has been staking claim to disputed territory.

From two continents, Pence and Defense Secretary Jim Mattis warned that North Korea’s latest failed missile launch was a reckless act of provocation and assured allies in Asia that the U.S. was ready to work to achieve a peaceful denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

Mattis denounced North Korea’s attempted missile launch as he began a Middle East tour, telling reporters traveling with him to Saudi Arabia, “the leader of North Korea again recklessly tried to provoke some-



Pence

thing by launching a missile,” he said. The term “reckless” is one the North Koreans have used to describe ongoing large-scale U.S. and South Korean military exercises, which the North calls a dress rehearsal for an invasion.

Mattis did not identify the type of missile but said it was not of intercontinental range, meaning it could not reach U.S. territory. He did not comment on what might have caused the missile to fail.

Another official, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss an intelligence matter, said the missile was a Scud variant that the U.S. calls a KN-17.

Mattis credited China with trying to help get the North Korea situation “under control” with the goal of denuclearizing the peninsula.

Pence’s speech on the aircraft carrier followed meetings Tuesday in Tokyo with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, where he noted that “all options are on the table.”

Passengers scream as bus plunges in Philippines, killing 31

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Passengers were screaming in horror as the bus driver repeatedly hit the brakes, shouting they weren’t working, before the vehicle plunged into a ravine in the northern Philippines, killing at least 31 people in one of the country’s deadliest recent crashes, officials said Wednesday.

The 46 passengers injured in Tuesday’s crash were retrieved by rescuers who struggled with ropes to descend down the 24-meter (80-foot) deep ravine to reach the wreckage in Nueva Ecija province’s Carranglan town, said Senior Supt. Antonio Yarra, the provincial police chief.

He said at least 77 people were on board the vehicle based on the number of dead and injured, but rescuers returned to the crash site Wednesday morning to look in the grassy area for other possible victims.

A survivor who jumped out the door before the bus plunged said “the driver was shouting, saying the brakes were not working and he has lost control of the bus,” Yarra said in a telephone interview.

Many of the passengers were hospitalized with serious injuries and parents were sepa-



rated from their children in the confusion, officials said.

“One child here sat beside her mother. The mother was dead,” said Dr. Napoleon Obana of the Veterans Regional Hospital, where some of the victims were taken.

TV footage showed a line of rescuers and villagers, some holding onto a rope to climb up on a grassy slope with a victim on a stretcher. A throng of villagers waited in a clearing above them to help pull the victim to safety.

Passenger Ralph Raymond Grajo said he saw the driver repeatedly stepping on the malfunctioning brakes as the

wayward bus was speeding along a downhill road. The driver attempted to steer the bus to the right, but roadside houses made him veer back in the direction of the ravine as horrified passengers watched, Grajo said.

“All the passengers were screaming and somebody in front me told everybody ‘Don’t panic,’ but many were already gripped by panic,” Grajo told DZMM radio network.

Grajo apparently fell out of the bus as it rolled down the ravine and regained consciousness away from the wreckage with injuries to his feet and arms. He said he was among the first to be rescued and brought to a hospital.

Yarra said the driver was among the dead, and that four survivors were in critical condition.

The spot along the road is accident-prone. Tuesday’s crash was the sixth in the area in recent years, a local village official told DZMM.

The impact from the plunge ripped the bus, which could no longer be distinguished at the bottom of the ravine, said Nueva Ecija’s police chief Antonio Yarra. He said investigators could not yet talk to the stunned and injured survivors.

World

US: Human rights violations driving conflicts like Syria

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—U.S. Ambassador Nikki Haley said Tuesday that human rights violations have triggered conflict in Syria, stifled dissent in Burundi and led to repression in Myanmar—and the next international crisis could come from North Korea, Iran or Cuba where human rights are widely disregarded.

But Russia and China disputed her contention that human rights violations are a main driver of conflicts. And Human Rights Watch questioned the Trump administration’s decision to focus on human rights at the U.N. Security Council in light of its own actions.

The United States holds the U.N. Security Council presidency this month and Haley was determined to hold a meeting to focus on the importance of human rights to international peace and security. It took place Tuesday after the U.S. addressed a key objection from Russia, China and other council members, and was the first meeting solely on human rights.

The United States initially wanted the debate under a new agenda item for the council

entitled “Human Rights and International Peace and Security”—which would mean that item could be raised again and again in the council. But many council members didn’t want the U.N.’s most powerful body, which is charged with ensuring international peace and security, to also focus on human rights.

So in a compromise, the U.S. Mission agreed to hold the meeting under an old agenda item: “Maintenance of international peace and security,” with a focus on “human rights and prevention of armed conflict.” That still didn’t leave at least half a dozen council members happy, which was reflected in their statements.

Russia’s deputy U.N. Ambassador Evgeny Zagaynov said the Security Council has no mandate to consider human rights which are discussed elsewhere at the U.N.

He objected to the U.S. contention that rights violations are “a main precondition for armed conflict” and to its assertion that protecting human rights is “a key instrument” to prevent conflict.

“Indeed prevention and settlement of armed con-

flicts are the main prerequisites for correcting human rights situations, and not vice versa,” he said.

China’s U.N. Ambassador Liu Jieyi never mentioned the words human rights and dismissed the U.S. statement that rights violations cause conflicts.

China is committed to addressing the root causes of conflicts, he said, and they include “extreme poverty and balanced development, shortage of resources and ethnic and tribal conflicts.”

But Haley warned the council that if it fails to take human rights violations and abuses seriously, “they can escalate into real threats to international peace and security.”

“The Security Council cannot continue to be silent when we see widespread violations of human rights,” she said. “Why would we tell ourselves that we will only deal with questions of peace and security, without addressing the factors that bring about the threats in the first place?”

“We are much better off acting on the front end, standing for human rights before the absence of human rights forces us to react,” she said.

UK leader calls for early election

LONDON (AP)—Delivering the latest jolt in Britain’s year of political shocks, Prime Minister Theresa May called Tuesday for a snap June 8 general election, seeking to strengthen her hand in European Union exit talks and tighten her grip on a fractious Conservative Party.

With the Labour opposition weakened, May’s gamble will probably pay off with an enhanced Conservative majority in Parliament—but it’s unlikely to unite a country deeply split over the decision to quit the EU.

May returned from an Easter break in the Welsh mountains to announce that she would make a televised statement on an undisclosed subject early Tuesday outside 10 Downing St. Speculation swirled and the pound plunged against the dollar amid uncertainty about whether she planned to resign, call an election or even declare war.

Since taking office after her predecessor David Cameron resigned in the wake of Britain’s June 23 vote to leave the EU, May had re-

peatedly ruled out going to the polls before the next scheduled election in 2020. But on Tuesday, she said she had “reluctantly” changed her mind because political divisions “risk our ability to make a success of Brexit.”

“We need a general election and we need one now,” May said. “Because we have, at this moment, a one-off chance to get this done, while the European Union agrees its negotiating position and before the detailed talks begin.”

For decades British prime ministers could call elections at will, but that changed with the 2011 Fixed-Term Parliaments Act, which established set polling days every five years. Now, the prime minister needs the backing of two-thirds of lawmakers and May said she would put her election call to the House of Commons on Wednesday.

“Let us tomorrow vote for an election. Let us put forward our plans for Brexit and our alternative programs for government and then let the people decide,” May said.

Jeremy Corbyn, leader of

the main opposition Labour Party, welcomed May’s announcement, making it very likely she will get lawmakers’ backing for an election.

May’s governing Conservatives currently have a slight majority, with 330 seats in the 650-seat House of Commons.

With Labour demoralized and divided under left-wing leader Corbyn and the pro-EU Liberal Democrats holding just nine Commons seats, May is calculating that the election will bring her an expanded crop of Conservative lawmakers.

That would make it easier for her to ignore opposition calls for a softer EU exit—making compromises to retain some benefits of membership—and to face down hard-liners within her own party who want a no-compromise “hard Brexit” that many economists fear could be devastating.

Tim Bale, professor of politics at Queen Mary University of London, said that even for a cautious politician like May, the temptation of an early election was irresistible.

Focus

Ivanka's biz prospers as politics mixes with business

SHANGHAI (AP)—Since her father was elected president of the United States, global sales of Ivanka Trump merchandise have surged and the company has applied for at least nine new trademarks in the Philippines, Puerto Rico, Canada and the U.S. The commercial engine of the first daughter's brand is stronger than ever even as she builds a new political career from her West Wing office.

Sales hit record levels in 2017, despite boycotts and several stores limiting her merchandise. U.S. imports, almost all from China, shot up an estimated 166 percent last year.

The brand, which Ivanka Trump no longer manages but still owns, says distribution is growing. It has launched new active wear and affordable jewelry lines, and is working to expand its global intellectual property footprint. In addition to applying for the new trademarks, Ivanka Trump Marks LLC has won provisional approval from the Chinese government for at least five since the inauguration.

The commercial currents of President Donald Trump's White House are unprecedented in modern American politics, ethics lawyers say. They have created an unfamiliar landscape riven with ethical pitfalls, and forced consumers and retailers to wrestle with the unlikely passions now inspired by Ivanka Trump's mid-market collection of ruffled blouses, shifts and wedges.

Using the prestige of government service to build a brand is not illegal. But criminal conflict-of-interest law prohibits federal officials, like Ivanka Trump and her husband Jared Kushner, from participating in government matters that could impact their own financial interest or that of their spouses. Some argue that the more her business broadens its scope, the more it threatens to encroach on the ability of two trusted advisers to deliver credible counsel to the president on core issues like trade, intellectual property and the value of Chinese currency.

"Put the business on hold and stop trying to get trademarks while you're in government," advises Richard Painter, who served as chief White House ethics lawyer under George W. Bush.

In fact, on April 6, Ivanka Trump's company won provisional approval from the Chinese government for three



In this Thursday, July 21, 2016, file photo, Ivanka Trump takes the stage during the final day of the Republican National Convention in Cleveland.

new trademarks, giving it monopoly rights to sell Ivanka brand jewelry, bags and spa services in the world's second-largest economy. That night, the first daughter and her husband sat next to the president of China and his wife for a steak and Dover sole dinner at Mar-a-Lago.

The scenario underscores how difficult it is for the president's daughter, to separate business from politics in her new position at the White House.

In a statement Tuesday, a spokesperson for the Ivanka Trump brand said that all 2017 Chinese trademarks were defensive, filed to prevent counterfeiters or squatters from using her name.

To address ethical concerns, Ivanka Trump has shifted the brand's assets to a family-run trust valued at more than \$50 million and pledged to recuse herself from issues that present conflicts. She is also no longer running her design business and has given day-to-day responsibility to Abigail Klem, president of the brand. Meanwhile, her husband has taken steps to distance himself from his sprawling New York real estate business, divesting some of his business interests including his stake in a major Fifth Avenue skyscraper.

"Ivanka will not weigh in on business strategy, marketing issues or the commercial terms of agreements," her attorney, Jamie Gorelick, said in a statement. "She has retained authority to direct the trustees

to terminate agreements that she determines create a conflict of interest or the appearance of one."

China, however, remains a nagging concern.

"Ivanka has so many China ties and conflicts, yet she and Jared appear deeply involved in China contacts and policy. I would never have allowed it," said Norman Eisen, who served as chief White House ethics lawyer under President Barack Obama. "For their own sake, and the country's, Ivanka and Jared should consider stepping away from China matters."

Instead, the first daughter and her husband have emerged as prominent interlocutors with China, where they have both had significant business ties. Last year, Kushner pursued hundreds of millions of dollars in real estate investments from Anbang Insurance Group, a financial conglomerate with close ties to the Chinese state. After media reports about the deal, talks were called off.

Publicly, Ivanka Trump has taken a gracious, charming approach toward Beijing. During the Mar-a-Lago meetings, her daughter, 5-year-old Arabella, stood in a gilded room and sang a traditional Chinese song, in Mandarin, for China's president, Xi Jinping. The video, which was lavishly praised by Chinese state media, played over 2.2 million times on China's popular news portal qq.com.

The week of the summit, 3.4 tons of Ivanka Trump handbags, wallets and blouses arrived in the U.S. from Hong Kong and Shanghai. U.S. imports of her merchandise grew an estimated 40 percent in the first quarter of this year, according to Panjiva Inc., which maintains and analyzes global shipping records.

Gorelick, Ivanka Trump's attorney, said that she and her husband would steer clear of specific areas that could impact her business, or be seen as conflicts of interest, but are under no legal obligation to step back from huge swaths of policy, like trade with China.

Under the rules, Trump would recuse herself from conversations about duties on clothing imported from China, Gorelick said, but not broad foreign policy.

"In between, you have to assess it case-by-case," she said.

Trademarks can be signs of corporate ambition, though many countries—such as China, where "trademark squatting" is rampant—also allow for defensive filings to prevent copycats from using a brand.

Trademarks pose ethical, and possibly legal, implications for government employees because they are granted by foreign states and confer the monopoly right to sell branded products in a particular country—an entitlement that can be enormously valuable. Intellectual property lawyers say trademarks are also a crucial prerequisite for

cutting licensing deals, which form the basis of both Ivanka Trump's and Donald Trump's global business strategies.

Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, a government watchdog group, on Tuesday expanded the scope of its federal lawsuit against President Trump to include trademark approvals from China in its list of alleged constitutional violations. The emoluments clause of the U.S. Constitution prohibits federal officials from accepting anything of value from foreign governments without congressional approval.

As a White House employee, Ivanka Trump is also subject to the same rule. "She needs to be careful," said Painter, the former Bush administration lawyer, who is advising on the lawsuit. "If her trademarks are anything but routine they also would be prohibited emoluments from the Chinese government."

The president has dismissed the suit as "totally without merit."

In a statement, Klem said the trademarks are business as usual, and in some regions to prevent "trademark infringement."

"We have recently seen a surge in trademark filings by unrelated third parties trying to capitalize on the name and it is our responsibility to diligently protect our trademark," Klem said.

Today, Ivanka Trump Marks LLC has 16 registered trademarks in China and more

than 30 pending applications, along with at least five marks granted preliminary approval since the inauguration, according to China's Trademark Office database and gazette. Database filings are not immediately updated and may lag actual approvals. Altogether, they cover a wide range of goods and services, including cosmetics, jewelry, leather handbags, luggage, clothes, shoes, retail, spa and beauty services. There is no sign the recent approvals were particularly swift. China's Trademark Office did not respond to a request for comment.

Globally, the company has more than 180 pending and registered trademarks in countries including Canada, India, Japan, Israel, Mexico, Turkey and Saudi Arabia, as well as the U.S. and Europe, public records show. In December, the company applied for five trademarks, covering handbags and wallets in Puerto Rico, and lingerie and other clothes in the U.S. After the inauguration, the company filed four more applications, for branded clothing and shoes in the Philippines, and perfume and other items in Canada.

Ivanka Trump did not sign off on the new trademark applications, her brand said in a statement, adding that they are "not necessarily an indication that the brand is planning to launch a category or a store in a specific territory."

Whatever the future plans, right now sales are growing—helped, some argue, by the glow of Ivanka Trump's political rise.

The G-III Apparel Group Ltd., which makes Ivanka Trump clothes, said net sales for the collection increased by \$17.9 million during the year that ended Jan. 31.

The overall brand itself says revenues rose 21 percent last year, with early February seeing some of the "best performance ever," according to a statement by Klem. Because it is privately held, the brand does not have to declare its earnings or where revenues come from. The actual corporate structure of Trump's retail business remains opaque. Kushner's financial disclosure form lists two dozen corporate entities that appear directly related to his wife's brand. Trump herself has yet to file a disclosure.

Data from Lyst, a massive fashion e-commerce platform, indicates some of this growth coincided with specific political events.

Environment

By **LYNDA V. MAPES**
THE SEATTLE TIMES

SEATTLE—It is the time we wait for all winter, as spring's first green leaves unfurl. The joy we feel is the thrill of a new season, kicked off by the masterful work of trees.

Trees, it turns out, are up to far more marvelous things than we ordinarily think.

Mute, passive, unmoving, solitary? Actually, no. Trees talk. Move. Breathe. So numerous are their abilities, and so embedded in a continuum of thrumming life are trees, that to know even one well is to be dazzled.

I learned this from one tree, in particular: a big oak I got to know over the better part of two years, from the tossed sunlit glory of its airy crown, to the small skitter of busy lives in the soil at its roots.

It all started by working with a scientist and his research crew, probing deeply into the lives of trees at Harvard Forest, a 4,000-acre laboratory of mostly scrappy third-growth trees, on former pastures and farms west of Boston. I was interested as a journalist in looking for new and better ways to tell the story of our changing climate. It has been a yawner for too many — a distant debate about treaties, dueling science and doomsday scenarios. The stakes are high: the function of natural processes; the viability of habitats; even the survival of species, including our own. But the facts won't matter if we can't get anyone to pay attention.

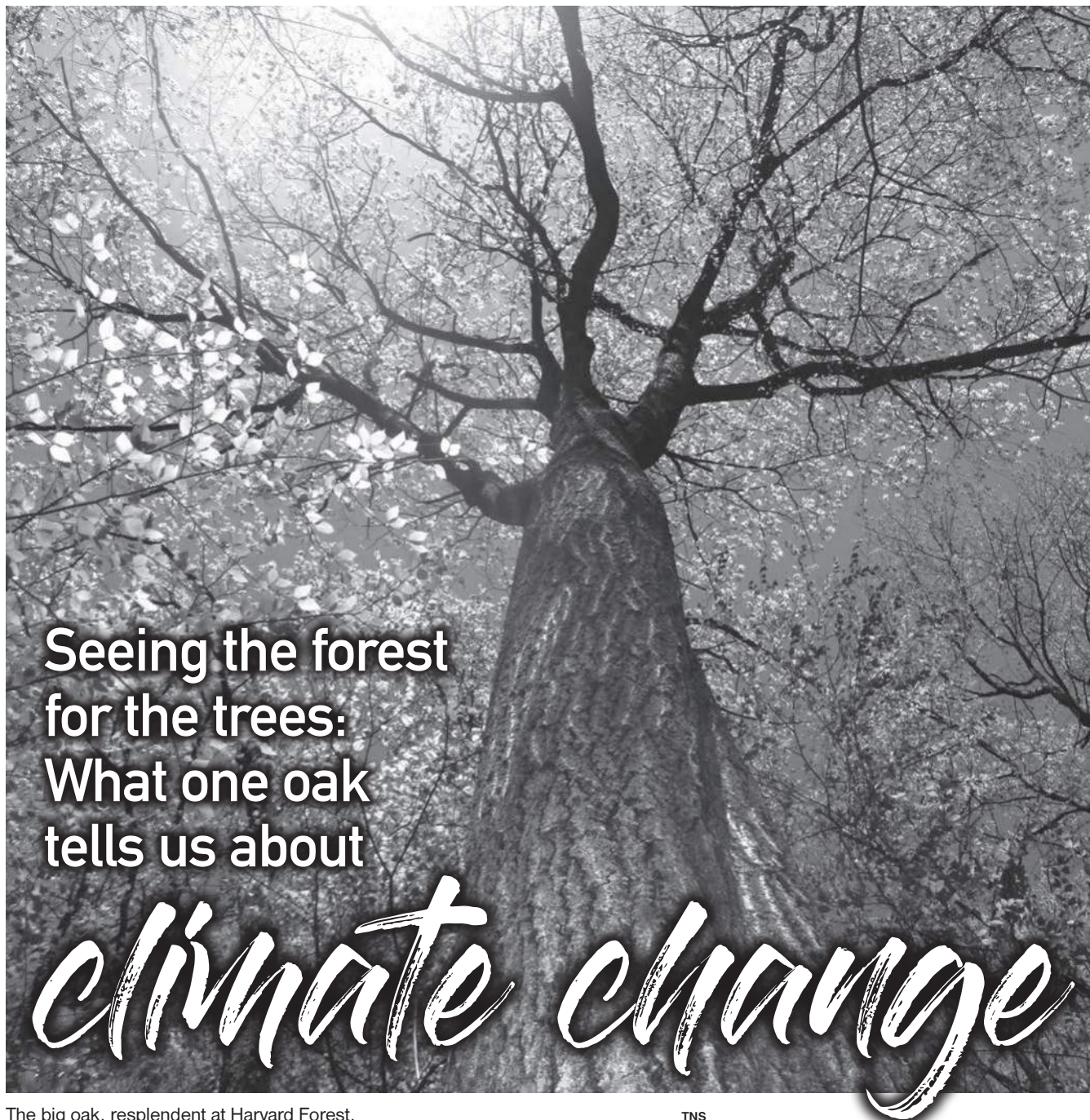
What has been missing is the largely overlooked story of the delicate seasonal timing of the natural world, and how it is being disrupted. I was seeking the urgent testimony of living things to a world already changing around us.

People everywhere have always observed the seasonal procession of the year, and drawn meaning from familiar patterns in the lives of plants and animals. We have a deep sense, built from daily observation, of what in nature is supposed to happen, where, and when. And an undeniable sense, too, that something important is happening when seasonal timing is out of whack. Birders know this. Gardeners do, too.

Now scientists are beginning to explore this everyday evidence of climate change, to reveal from changing seasonal rhythms the effects on the landscape.

■■■

At Harvard Forest, I wanted to take the back off the ticking seasonal clock to report, through the long-term, intimate observations by scientists in one place, and even the life of just one tree, what many in-



Seeing the forest
for the trees:
What one oak
tells us about

climate change

The big oak, resplendent at Harvard Forest.

TNS

tuitively sense: Our world is already changing.

To do it, I teamed with John O'Keefe and Professor Andrew Richardson at Harvard University, who was exploring data O'Keefe began gathering decades ago, walking a survey loop of the same 50 trees at Harvard Forest. With a clipboard, binoculars and pencil, O'Keefe documented every week in spring and fall the grand procession of bud break, leaf growth, color and drop.

"John, I need a tree," I wrote him early on, as I began joining his walks that first autumn in 2013. A tree that was a witness to our changing world.

And so we set off on his survey loop, auditioning trees. "Here," John said. "This might be a good one," he said, putting his hand on the big oak.

I tipped my head back to see its broad crown. It was big, that was for sure. Beautiful, no question. Now I just needed to know, was it old enough? I needed at least a century, a tree that reached back to the time when Model Ts were first off the assembly line, and our carbon love affair was revving up in earnest.

So we came back in spring 2014, with Dave Orwig, a master tree corer at the Forest, to

bore deep into the oak.

The big oak talked back with a krrreck as Orwig drilled the bit nearly to the tree's heart. With a swift tug, he pulled out a long core of wood from the dark depths of the tree into the sunlight: a slim wand of time, looking into the past.

A quick field check later confirmed under a microscope that the tree was about a century old. That settled it: Like the trees used as markers by settlers to denote the metes and bounds of changing landscapes, the oak would be my witness tree.

■■■

I moved to the Forest in the fall of 2014 to live with my tree for a year for what we called the Witness Tree Project, taking up residence just a short walk away from the oak in an old farmhouse. There was even a small troupe of cows for company in a pasture just outside the front door.

The big oak had sprouted by a stone wall as people left these woods for cities and factories, creating the emissions that are changing our world. O'Keefe's field notes showed that by now, not only had average temperatures changed, but even the clockwork of the seasons themselves. Spring, on

average, was earlier. Fall came later, and winter was squeezed on both ends.

On O'Keefe's weekly survey walks, we zoomed in the focus from the planetary to the very specific. He noticed everything: the mineral scent of the soil released in the first thaw, the first call of wood frogs and the arrival of ice on the puddles. What emerged was a vivid picture in Pointillist detail not only of the seasonal gyre of the year, but the interconnected timing of the forest with everything else, from the level of water in vernal pools to the first pollinators on the wing.

I began to understand the big oak in even closer focus, to see it not only as an individual, but a host to a web of life so interconnected as to make just one tree a forest unto itself. In its roots, a vast network of fungi lounged all through the soil, connecting the oak that seemed to stand so sedately alone to the other trees below ground. This fungal network greatly increased the tree's root area, and made available to it more nutrients and water than the tree could source on its own.

But the collaboration and communication engaged in by the tree went much further. In autumn, an army of jays and

squirrels resolutely reported for work, gathering and distributing far beyond the tree's shady canopy the acorns that would start its next generation.

In spring, the tree spoke out a sharp warning to its grove of the insects chewing its leaves, using pheromones to call in an air force of predatory wasps to mount a fierce guerrilla defense. Neighboring trees eavesdropping on the warning geared up with changed leaf chemistry, to make their fresh lovely spring leaves less palatable to insect attack.

The big oak's command over its realm was impressive, active and relentless. And oh, how it moved.

■■■

Early in my experiments with the tree, I figured out that to know it at all, I would need to climb it. Which is where Melissa LeVangie and her twin sister, Bear, came in.

Melissa, the tree warden for Petersham, Mass., is charged with protecting the town's trees. She also happens to be a champion climber. So when it came time to get up in the tree, it was obvious whom I should call.

On the appointed day, Melissa and Bear arrived and rigged me up in a harness and ropes. I

felt like a trussed turkey as the time came to give the rope that tethered me to the oak a pull. My feet lifted from the ground. In that moment, I was transported to the joy of my tree climbs as a girl, swaying atop a tall cedar in my tiny treetop girl nation of one.

My intended short visit turned into an obsession that eventually took me, with Melissa and Bear, into the oak's leafy crown some 80 feet up, picnicking in a hammock and even writing parts of the book that would come of all this, *Witness Tree* (Bloomsbury, 2017).

When I wasn't climbing the oak, I kept right on walking, alongside O'Keefe, and observing the explorations of the Richardson lab.

Richardson and other researchers were quick to see the value in O'Keefe's long, carefully kept records. And Richardson added a new twist: a bird's-eye view, with a bank of security cameras, of all things, mounted on towers in the Forest.

The tower by the big oak bristles with an array of instruments. Cameras and sensors poke into the business of this grove, logging every act in the leaves' annual drama as they bud, unfurl, color and fall.

See it for yourself: Log on to the webcams at Harvard Forest to see the Witness Tree's patch of woods on Barn Tower and Barn Tower 2, or click on the Witness Tree camera to see the big oak. Watch it go through its day, in live images uploaded every half-hour in daylight hours. Through archives at the University of New Hampshire, you can watch the tree go through past years, if you'd like. Speed up the images, and watch the seasons fly.

Here is a way to see the proverbial forest for the trees, to get a sense at scale of how the Forest is responding to climate change. There has never been anything like it.

Combining O'Keefe's field observations with the forest-eye view from the cameras, and data from a bevy of gadgets, the Richardson lab and its collaborators are breaking new ground in understanding the impact of climate change on forests. They published research showing trees were packing away more carbon and growing faster than at any time in the past 20 years, and using less water to do so. With so much carbon dioxide in the air, trees such as the big oak open their stomata — the breathing pores in their leaves — less to take in the carbon dioxide that is their food. They lose less water in the bargain.

Here was climate change, visible not only in the calendar of the forest canopy, but deep within the mechanics of individual leaves, even within one tree.

Life & Style

Viewership of 'O'Reilly Factor' drops without Bill O'Reilly

NEW YORK (AP)—Through four days of Bill O'Reilly's vacation, his show's viewership declined by 23 percent in the hands of substitutes Dana Perino, Eric Bolling and Greg Gutfeld.

O'Reilly is on a nearly two-week vacation at the same time Fox News Channel's parent company looks into a woman's accusation that her career was slowed when she spurned his advances. Dozens of his show's advertisers have fled following reports of harassment settlements paid to other women. O'Reilly has denied any wrongdoing.

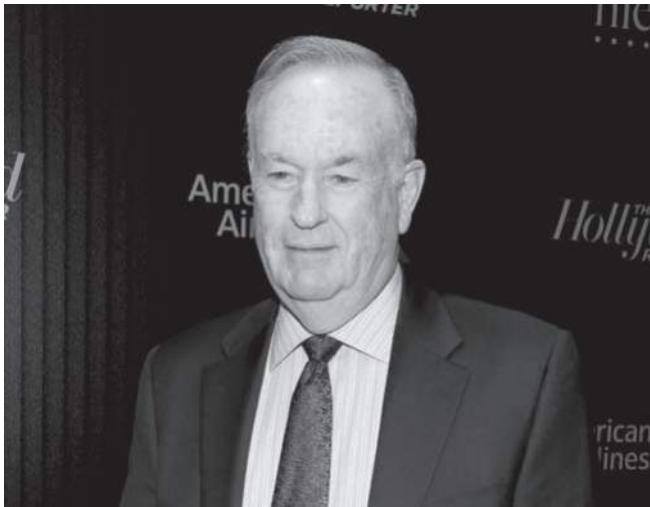
Despite the vacation, the pressure is staying on O'Reilly and 21st Century Fox, which is looking into at least one complaint about his behavior. The Wall Street Journal—a newspaper owned by the same Murdoch family that owns Fox News Channel—reported late Tuesday that Fox execu-

tives were "preparing to cut ties" with O'Reilly. A spokesman for 21st Century Fox declined to comment to the AP.

Earlier, attorney Lisa Bloom said she was representing a former clerical worker at Fox who complained that day to a hotline established at Fox about O'Reilly's behavior during her six months working there in 2008.

The woman, who is African-American, said O'Reilly referred to her as "hot chocolate" at one point when they were together alone, made grunting noises and leered at her cleavage and legs, Bloom said. The woman said she never had a direct conversation with O'Reilly.

The woman, who is not contemplating any legal action, reported being "very stressed and disillusioned" about her job and believed she would be fired if she complained to anyone, Bloom said.



In this April 6, 2016, file photo, Bill O'Reilly attends The Hollywood Reporter's "35 Most Powerful People in Media" celebration in New York.

Marc Kasowitz, O'Reilly's attorney, said that it was "outrageous that an allegation from an anonymous person about something that purportedly happened almost a decade ago is being treated as fact, especially where there is obviously

an orchestrated campaign by activists and lawyers to destroy Mr. O'Reilly and enrich themselves through publicity driven donations."

It wasn't immediately clear who he was referring to.

Bloom, who represents an-

other woman who has complained about O'Reilly's behavior, said she is not taking payment for the O'Reilly cases.

Later, Kasowitz said O'Reilly has been subject to a "brutal campaign of character assassination" that is unprecedented in more than 70 years. He said he had evidence that a smear campaign is being orchestrated by "far-left organizations," but he didn't immediately release any.

Nielsen company figures show that so far, viewers aren't as interested in "The O'Reilly Factor" without O'Reilly. Perino has done the best, with her 3.15 million viewers on Monday down 16 percent from O'Reilly's performance a week earlier. Bolling also showed a 16 percent drop from O'Reilly a week earlier, and he reached 3.11 million viewers.

The 2.32 million who watched Gutfeld on Friday was down 39 percent from the

previous Friday and, alarmingly, was even lower than Tucker Carlson's audience at 9 p.m. Carlson usually benefits from O'Reilly's strong lead-in.

Still, the substitutes beat their cable news competition. And Fox pointed out that the network finished last week ahead of all cable networks in viewership, as it has for much of this year.

O'Reilly's viewership spiked in the days following an April 2 New York Times report on the harassment allegations. In the week that followed, viewership increased to an average of 3.71 million, up 12 percent from the week before the report and 28 percent over the same week in 2016.

O'Reilly averaged nearly 4 million viewers a night for the first three months of 2017, his best performance ever. Viewership tends to drop with the arrival of daylight savings time.

'SNL' time zone shift pays dividends with big boost

NEW YORK (AP)—NBC's decision to air a live version of "Saturday Night Live" in every time zone has paid immediate dividends.

The network's telecast last weekend, with host Jimmy Fallon, musician Harry Styles and with Alec Baldwin and Melissa McCarthy delivering their hit impersonations of Donald Trump and Sean Spicer, was seen by 7.87 million people, or 21 percent more than the previous week's telecast, the Nielsen company said.

For the first time, NBC decided to air the show live from New York in the Mountain and Pacific time zones—then repeat it in the show's customary 11:30 p.m. time slot. Nielsen did not immediately have exact numbers on how much this decision boosted viewership. But counting both airings, overnight ratings among young viewers in the two Western time zones more than doubled over the previous week's telecast.

Among the 18-to-49-year-old demographic last week, "Saturday Night Live" had more viewers than all prime-time shows except "The Big Bang Theory" and "Empire."

It has been a banner year for NBC's comedy institution. When people who record the show and watch within a week are counted in, the typical "Saturday Night Live" edition is seen by 10.9 million people each week, Nielsen said. That doesn't even count the way



In this April 15, 2017 photo released by NBC, host Jimmy Fallon, center, performs during the live opening number on "Saturday Night Live," in New York.

many people view late-night comedy these days, through clips spotted online.

The television viewership is up 29 percent over last year and, NBC said, is the show's best season since 1993-94.

The show typically does well in election years. What makes this season different is the audience has remained strong after the election, fueled by Baldwin's indelible Trump impersonation and McCarthy's instant-classic take on the president's press secretary.

CBS won the week in prime-time, averaging 6.6 million viewers. ABC had 4.5

million, NBC had 4.4 million, Fox had 2.5 million, Univision had 1.5 million, Telemundo had 1.2 million, ION Television had 1.1 million and the CW had 900,000.

Fox News Channel was the week's most popular cable network, averaging 2.33 million in prime-time. Boosted by the NBC playoffs, TNT had 1.66 million viewers, HGTV had 1.47 million, MSNBC had 1.466 million and ESPN had 1.31 million.

ABC's "World News Tonight" topped the evening newscasts with an average of 7.61 million viewers. NBC's "Nightly News" had 7.56 mil-

lion and the "CBS Evening News" had 6.2 million.

For the week of April 10-16, the top 10 shows, their networks and viewerships: "The Big Bang Theory," CBS, 11.89 million; "Dancing With the Stars," ABC, 10.31 million; "Stayin' Alive: Grammy Salute to the Bee Gees," CBS, 10.31 million; "The Voice" (Monday, 8 p.m.), NBC, 9.88 million; "Blue Bloods," CBS, 9.43 million; "NCIS," CBS, 9.06 million; "Hawaii Five-0," CBS, 8.49 million; "Survivor," CBS, 8.32 million; "60 Minutes," CBS, 8.16 million; "The Voice" (Tuesday), NBC, 7.76 million.

US Sen. Elizabeth Warren launches book tour



In this Feb. 8, 2017 file photo, U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass. is seen on Capitol Hill in Washington.

NEW YORK (AP)—She wasn't in her home state, but U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren couldn't have asked for a friendlier audience to launch her book tour.

The Massachusetts Democrat entered and left to warm ovations Tuesday night at the Barnes & Noble in Manhattan's Union Square, where she spoke about "This Fight is Our Fight: The Battle to Save America's Middle Class."

More than 200 people gathered as Warren, one of the country's leading progressives, read a few pages and responded to written questions, most of them focused on issues such as health care, the environment and the role of unions.

The appearance felt as much like a political rally as an author reading, with Warren pacing about the stage instead of standing behind the

lectern. Many cheered as she called for ongoing resistance to President Donald Trump and condemned Republicans for caring only about the wealthy. When Warren asked how many had attended one of the women's marches held the day after Trump's inauguration, dozens raised their hands. Warren also jokingly referred to her "nerdiness" whenever she cited statistics, and noted that when she offered "facts," she didn't mean "alternative facts."

"I never thought I'd have to start using a modifier for 'facts,'" she said.

"This Fight is Our Fight" is Warren's 11th book and ranked No. 42 on Amazon.com as of late Tuesday. The book, like her talk at Barnes & Noble, didn't place any blame for the Democrats' loss in 2016 and instead emphasized the struggles of the middle class.

Intruder inside Drake's home only raided rapper's fridge



Rapper Drake, in white, smiles from his seat during the second half of an NBA basketball game between the Golden State Warriors and the New Orleans Pelicans on Saturday, April 8, 2017, in Oakland, Calif.

Prince left behind a treasure trove to see at Paisley Park

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—One visit to the sprawling Minnesota recording complex that Prince called home may not be enough.

Paisley Park, in the Minneapolis suburb of Chanhassen, opened as a museum in October, just six months after the "Purple Rain" megastar died there of a painkiller overdose. Prince left behind more than 7,000 artifacts, including costumes and shoes, and more than 121 guitars and instruments.

Paisley Park spokesman Mitch Maguire said the Oscar- and seven-time Grammy Award-winning musician did archivists a favor because he would "seemingly hang onto everything." That allows the museum to switch archival pieces out, so fans coming back for tours will have a new experience.



In this April 6, 2017, photo, fan artwork of Prince hangs on a new memorial fence in the parking lot of Paisley Park Museum, the former home and recording complex of the late superstar in Chanhassen, Minn.

Among the items planned for future exhibits are the red wool hat Prince wore during an all-star jam at the 2004 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame induction ceremony and a blue Stratocaster guitar Prince

played during part of his legendary 2007 Super Bowl half-time show.

A four-day celebration of Prince will be held April 20-23 at Paisley Park during the anniversary of his death.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Authorities say an intruder was arrested at Drake's Southern California house, but the woman apparently did nothing but drink the rapper's water and soda pop.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department says deputies from its Malibu/

Lost Hills Station arrested 24-year-old Mesha Collins Monday inside the home of Drake, whose real name is Aubrey Graham.

Deputies called to the house found Collins inside a locked room surrounded by opened water and soda bottles from the house. There was no evi-

dence she took anything else or did any damage.

She was arrested for entering a residence with intent to steal the victim's property. She is being held on \$100,000 bail and has a court date Wednesday.

Deputies didn't know if she has an attorney who can comment.

Lawsuit says singer Thalia failed to promote fashion brand

NEW YORK (AP)—A Mexican fashion retailer says superstar singer Thalia (Tah-LEE'-ah) failed to promote her branded products while demanding diva-like perks including a \$65,000 plane ride and a \$10,000 stylist.

The lawsuit filed in Manhattan by EDF Brands charges

that Thalia didn't live up to her obligations under the licensing deal she signed in 2016.

The lawsuit filed Feb. 21 also names Thalia's husband, music mogul Tommy Mottola.

EDF lawyer Andrew Goldenberg said Thalia "wasn't really interested in fulfilling the promises she made to my

client."

But Thalia says in a counterclaim that that EDF's products weren't up to her standards.

She says the quality of suede in a pair of sneakers was "very cheap," for example.

The 45-year-old Thalia has sold more than 40 million records worldwide.

Movie and TV star Kevin Spacey to host the Tony Awards show

NEW YORK (AP)—Kevin Spacey has been picked to host this year's Tony Awards, putting the award-winning star of "House of Cards" in the unenviable position of steering a telecast surely facing a post-"Hamilton" hangover.

The telecast on June 11 will originate from the 6,000-seat Radio City Music Hall, and producers are sure to be keeping their fingers crossed that they avoid any technical or human snafus that have marred previous awards shows this year, including the wrong winner announced at the Oscars and sound issues at the Grammys.

Spacey, who won Oscars for the movies "The Usual Suspects" and "American Beauty," won a Tony Award in 1991 in Neil Simon's "Lost in Yonkers" and starred in the Broadway and West End pro-

ductions of "Long Day's Journey into Night." With a foot in both Broadway and Hollywood—and a career singing onscreen and in concert to boot—Spacey brings glamour and acting chops to the job.

In a statement, he alluded to

the telecast producers scrambling for a host after other celebrities dropped out. "I was their second choice for 'Usual Suspects,' fourth choice for 'American Beauty' and 15th choice to host this year's Tony Awards. I think my career is definitely going in the right direction," he said. "Maybe I can get shortlisted to host the Oscars if everyone else turns it down."



In this April 19, 2016 file photo, Kevin Spacey attends the "Elvis & Nixon" world premiere screening during the 2016 Tribeca Film Festival in New York.

Ex-wife's anger at her friend's betrayal spill over to daughter

DEAR ABBY: My ex-husband had an affair with a woman who was one of my dearest friends. My heart is broken; my marriage is over. I have lost my home and my friend. It has been a struggle for me to recover.

My daughter, with whom I am very close, continues to have a relationship with this woman. While I know it's not my place to tell her who to be friends with (she's 22), I can't help but feel betrayed.

My daughter is pregnant, and this woman seems to be attempting to play mother and push her way into every detail of my daughter's pregnancy. It's extremely upsetting to me to have to share one more thing with her. She already took my home and husband; I would like to keep my daughter and grandbaby. What to do?

THE REAL GRANDMA-TO-BE

DEAR REAL GRANDMA: Although you cannot cut this woman completely out of your life because she is now with your ex, calmly discuss this with your daughter. She may have reasons that you are unaware of for wanting to include the woman to the extent that she has.

DEAR ABBY: We need help with our dad. Many of his grandchildren participate in sports. For some reason, he thinks

it's perfectly fine to sit in the stands surrounded by people he doesn't know and loudly criticize the other players.

We talk to him before the games. We remind him that he's sitting by these players' parents and what he's doing is not cool. Some of the parents become quite emotional if things don't go well and Dad doesn't need to be doing this. Yet he continues.

Have you any ideas on getting Grandpa to keep his opinions to himself? We don't want to ban him from games and treat him like a 5-year-old who can't behave, since he is still able to travel to see us for these visits. We try to sit away from others, but it's not always possible.

EMBARRASSED IN HOUSTON

DEAR EMBARRASSED: You already know the answer to your problem, and I do not understand why you haven't taken action. Was your father always this way, or has he become demented? When an adult acts like a 5-year-old and behaves inappropriately after having been cautioned against it, there is cause for concern.

If he is unable to control his behavior at those games, instead of being allowed to ruin them for everyone within earshot, he should ABSOLUTELY be banned from attending. If you won't do it for the sake of the players and other parents, then do it for your father's safety because one of these days, an irate parent or relative may punch his lights out.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR ABBY: My niece was married by a justice of the peace in October. She and her husband are having a church wedding this summer. What would be the proper date to recognize on a gift?

DONNA IN NORTH CAROLINA

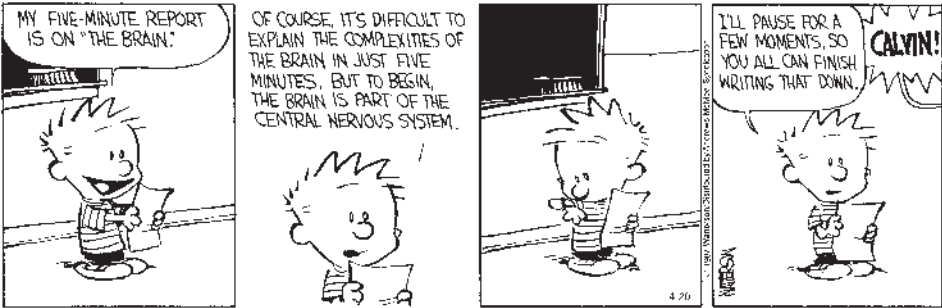
DEAR DONNA: If you are having the wedding gift engraved, you should ask your niece which date she and her husband would prefer.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable — and most frequently requested — poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

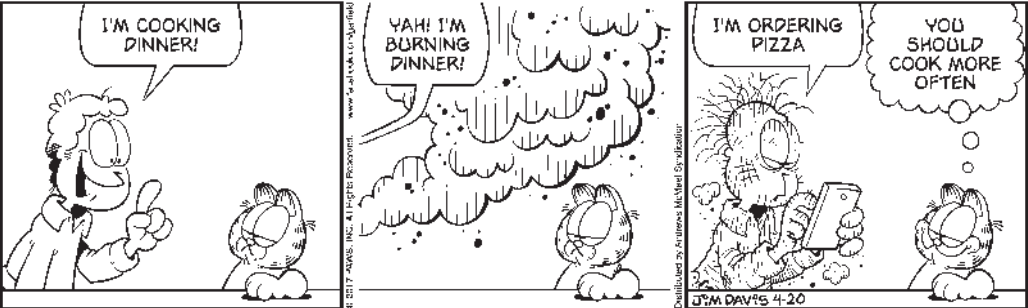
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



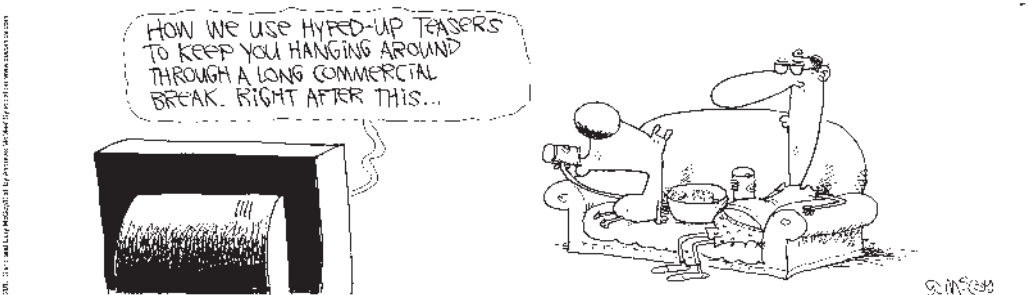
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- 1 Out of play
- 5 Shri! barks
- 9 Solo of "Star Wars"
- 12 Bruins' sch.
- 13 Leave a lasting impres-sion
- 14 Glacial
- 15 Act like a toady
- 17 Opening
- 18 Soft leathers
- 19 Garden intruder
- 21 — and behold
- 22 Ersatz chocolate
- 24 Rubik's baffler
- 27 — de mer
- 28 Half a sextet
- 31 Literary collection
- 32 Gorilla
- 33 Bobby of hockey
- 34 Fore-shadow

DOWN

- 1 Works on a sound-track
- 2 Beige
- 3 Medicinal plant
- 4 Dillydally
- 5 Hanker-ings
- 6 From — Z
- 7 Mac alter-natives
- 8 Gather wool
- 9 Intellec-tual
- 10 Exotic berry
- 11 Times Sq. force
- 16 "The Matrix" role
- 20 Cauldron
- 22 Poultry choice
- 23 Actor Baldwin
- 24 Taxi
- 25 Popular card game
- 26 Criticize severely
- 27 Con-structed
- 29 401(k) alterna-tive
- 30 Assoc.
- 35 "Mangia!"
- 37 Dare-devil's feats
- 39 Fashion magazine
- 40 Away from WSW
- 41 Heap
- 42 Owl call
- 43 Without doing anything
- 44 Enlist again
- 45 Literary Jane
- 46 Fax
- 49 Mouths (Lat.)
- 50 Vegas opener?

Solution time: 26 mins.

B	O	S	C	F	A	A	H	M	O	S
U	N	T	O	A	R	P	E	G	H	O
M	C	F	N	T	I	R	F	A	K	I
S	E	N	I	O	R	A	D	I	O	S
			C	L	I	Y	A	W	N	
A	I	M	D	E	L	H	A	L	O	S
A	3	C	S		S	P	A		Y	E
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O	C	T	A	N	E		A	L	E	R
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A	P	S	E		P	O	I		D	E
A	I	R			E	N	D		I	S

Yesterday's answer 4-20

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Joey Lawrence, 41; Carmen Electra, 45; Jessica Lange, 68; Ryan O'Neal, 76.

Happy Birthday: Ease into whatever you do. Look at all the pros and cons and the people involved before you make a commitment to offer assistance. Your prime concern should be mastering the skills, techniques or knowledge required to help you achieve your goals. Take care of your health issues and do your best to avoid minor mishaps and injuries. Your numbers are 1, 12, 22, 26, 32, 38, 40.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Control what's going on instead of initiating change. It's important to know where you are headed before you take a step in any one direction. Size up your situation and aim to stabilize your life. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You'll be encouraged to follow when you should be leading. Don't feel like you have to use force to get your way. Choose to go about your business, refusing to become entangled in what others do or say. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Look for any opportunity to expand your knowledge and insight into situations that can influence your position or your reputation. Short trips, meetings and exploring what's available will help you get over emotional matters that have been holding you back. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You'll be tempted to get involved in something that excites you, but before you do, make sure

you can afford the emotional and financial burden that comes along with the offer. Draw on past experience and try to avoid loss. ★★★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Problems will arise if you make impulsive moves regarding relationships. Take a step back and listen to what others have to contribute. Once you have gathered enough information, you will be able to make a responsible decision. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): An opportunity will come from an unexpected source. Be willing to take on something extra if you want to bring about the changes that can help you get ahead. A change at home could have an important impact on your future. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Get involved in events that you can share with the people you enjoy being with the most. Fraternizing with people who challenge you mentally and stimulate you emotionally will lead to new beginnings and unexpected opportunities. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Work at home or do your best to avoid a situation that will require you to reveal information you aren't ready to discuss. Delve into a creative project that will give you the distance you need from difficult situations. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Take initiative and do your best to bring about personal changes that will bolster your skills, knowledge and future plans. Open up a dialogue with someone who can help you advance your career. ★★★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Look for any opportunity to broaden your knowledge or to gain information that can stop you from making a poor choice. Don't give in to pressure or get involved with someone who is unpredictable and risky. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Emotions will surface just as an opportunity or unexpected gift comes your way. Look at the big picture and you will be able to balance the good with the bad in order to bring about positive results. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): If your emotions are telling you one thing and someone you love is telling you another, you need to rethink what's going on in your personal life. Secrets will be revealed if you pressure someone for answers. ★★★★★

Birthday Baby: You are strong-willed, courageous and tasteful. You are secretive and possessive.

Eugenia's websites — eugenialast.com for Ask Eugenia, daily timing and compatibility services, and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

				3						
			2	8		5				
7			1	2				9		
		5		9		1				
9	4						7	3		
		1		2		6				
8			3		5				1	
		6		1		4				

Difficulty Level ★★★

4:20

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WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

WAYFAIR.COM Solution: 9 letters

E S T E V U D P L A T E S H S
L K M S S I C E C I F F O A E
A S T O N O E C O N I N E H S
S E D I U G E S P W L N E S A
S D N N A N E A O C O S E J H
O G T R T L T U S I F L C A C
J R D S B I T S T U O I L R R
Y E S A O D E A R N N P E I U
N E T T O R Z N U I L C C N P
A R O O T I I R N A I O T O R
M I R T N T S B N M N V I T O
O O A A U E S T E V E E C S D
T M G R R S G U R D I R U O U
T R E Y P O U F S O S S P B C
O A C C O U N T L I U Q S N T

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Accents, Account, Armoire, Beds, Boston, Conine, Country, Cups, Desks, Dining, Duvet, Eclectic, Furniture, Garden, Guides, Joss, Main, Mattress, Mounts, Niraj Shah, Nursery, Office, Online, Organization, Ottoman, Outdoor, Patio, Pillow, Plates, Puffs, Product, Purchases, Quilt, Rugs, Runners, Sale, Sets, Slipcovers, Steve, Storage, Tables

Yesterday's Answer: Rushing

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Interested applicants may send their applications to ceti_recruitment@tanholdings.com. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than **5:00PM on April 26, 2017**. Applications for Employment are available at the Front Office of Century Tours Inc. located on the Ground Floor of Kanoa Resort, Beach Road, Susupe Village. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Century Tours, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

Century Tours, Inc. invites qualified U.S. worker candidates to apply for the following positions:

Sales Associate, part-time (1)
High School Diploma or a GED with prior work experience in luxury retail sales. Must be able to lift at least 15 pound items and carry it for at least 100 yards with or without using a trolley. Preferably fluent in both written and oral communication in the English and Chinese (Mandarin) languages. Must be able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Familiarity with the POS System is preferred.

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Closing Date: April 27, 2017

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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Re-Announcement No. 17-020
Position Title:
Department:

Pay Level & Step:
Annual Salary:
Location:
Opening Date:
Closing Date:

Supply Specialist I (2 Positions)
Procurement & Property Management Office
10/Step 01-02
\$24,330.79 - \$25,182.37
As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
April 18, 2017
April 27, 2017 or Until Filled

Announcement No. 17-023
Position Title:
Department:
Pay Level & Step:
Annual Salary:
Location:
Opening Date:
Closing Date:

Administrative Assistant III (Information Technology)
Information Technology
09/Step 01-02
\$23,194.27 - \$24,006.7
As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
April 07, 2017
Until Filled

Re-Announcement II No. 17-014
Position Title:
Department:
Pay Level & Step:
Annual Salary:
Location:
Opening Date:
Closing Date:

Administrative Manager I (School of Education)
School of Education
10/Step 01-02
\$24,330.79 - \$25,182.37
As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
April 07, 2017
Until Filled

Re-Announcement No. 16-042
Position Title:
Department:

Pay Level & Step:
Annual Salary:
Location:
Opening Date:
Closing Date:

Department Chair II
Sciences, Mathematics, Health & Athletics
34/01 – 34/02
\$49,356.09 - \$51,083.56
As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
April 18, 2017
April 27, 2017 or Until Filled

Re-Announcement No. 16-031
Position Title:
Department:
Pay Level & Step:
Annual Salary:
Location:
Opening Date:
Closing Date:

Clinical Instructor, Nursing
Nursing
30/01 – 30/02
\$38,394.81 - \$39,738.63
As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
April 13, 2017
April 24, 2017 or Until Filled

Re-Announcement No. 17-007
Position Title:
Department:

Pay Level & Step:
Annual Salary:
Location:
Opening Date:
Closing Date:

Marketing Manager
Office of Institutional Advancement
32/01 – 32/02
\$43,197.84 - \$44,709.77
As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
April 18, 2017
April 27, 2017 or Until Filled

Applications must be submitted by 4:40 pm on the closing date. If there are no qualified applicants or the set of qualified applicants is deemed an insufficient pool, the closing date will be extended for two-week periods for further submission and review of applications until the search is closed. Deadlines that fall on a non-business day will be extended to the next business day. All salaries are subject to availability of funds. The College is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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Bulls beat top-seeded Celtics to take 2-0 series lead



BOSTON (AP)—The Chicago Bulls talked often during the regular season about believing they had the personnel to play as a physically imposing team.

Their output has caught up to those desires so far during the postseason.

Jimmy Butler scored 22 points, Rajon Rondo finished one rebound shy of a triple-double and the Bulls beat the Boston Celtics 111-97 on Tuesday night to take a 2-0 lead in their series against the No. 1 seed in the Eastern Conference.

While some might be shocked by how Chicago has played as a No. 8 seed that was just 41-41, Butler made it clear he's not one of those folks.

"I'm not surprised because everybody's so locked in right now," said Butler, who added eight rebounds and eight assists.

Rondo had 11 points and 14 assists on a night when all five Bulls starters reached double figures. Dwyane Wade had 22 points, including 16 in the second half, and Robin Lopez added 18 points and eight points.

"Everybody's putting in each work, watching film, working on their game," Butler said. "That's where your confidence always comes from."

The Bulls host Game 3 on Friday.

After a better start by the Celtics, a familiar theme started to take hold as the Bulls took control by again dominating on the offensive glass. Chicago held a 43-38 rebounding edge for the game.

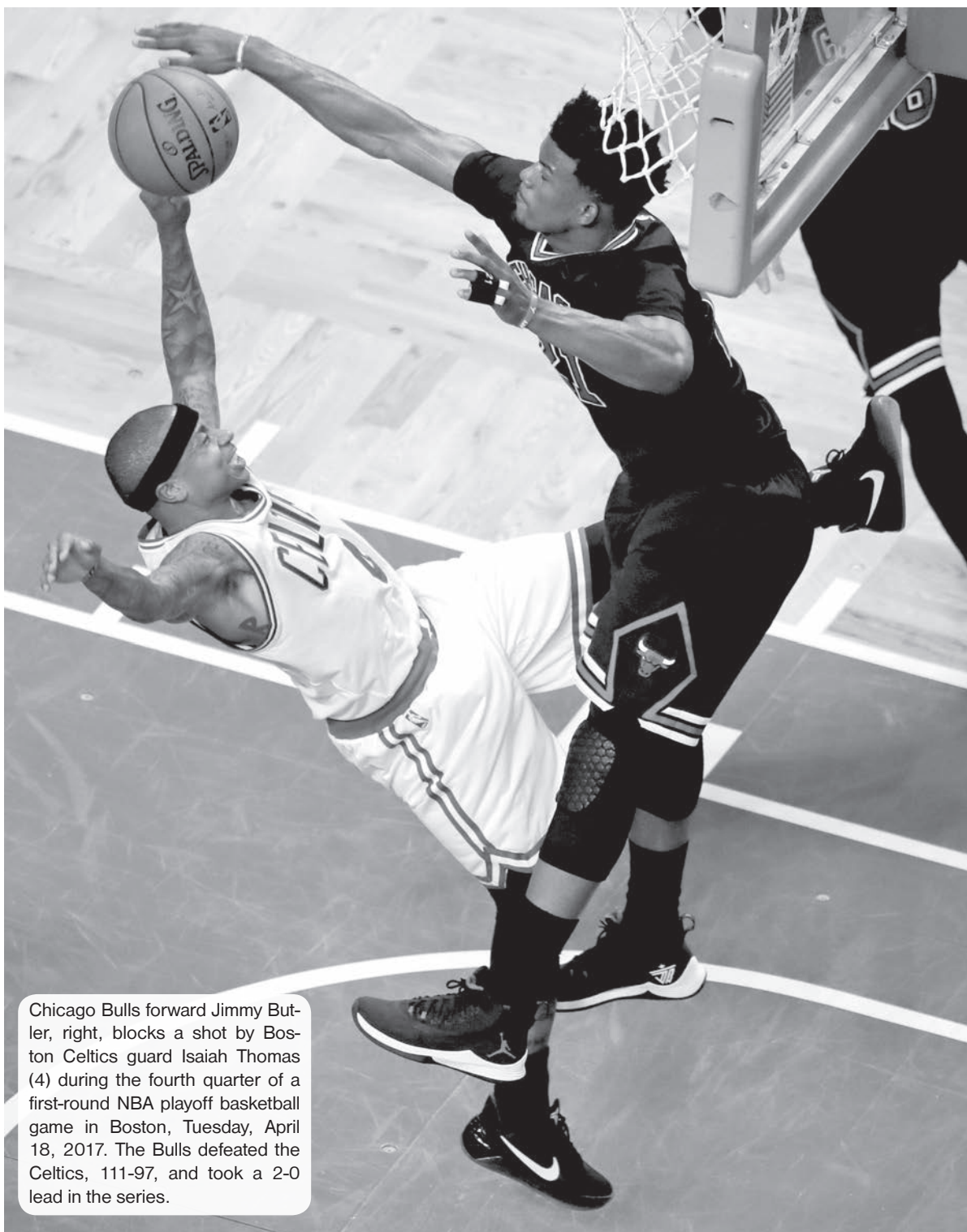
Isaiah Thomas scored 20 points for Boston.

Boston got within 91-82 early in the fourth before Chicago went on a 14-4 run to push its lead up to 19.

The Celtics did a much better job containing reserve Bobby Portis in Game 2 after he hurt them with 19 points off the bench in Game 1. But Paul Zipser picked up the slack in Game 2, scoring 16 points in 29 minutes.

After getting thoroughly pushed around underneath in Game 1, the Celtics grabbed the first four rebounds of the night while scoring the game's first seven points.

That changed quickly, though, as the Bulls responded with a 20-4 run. Boston's early rebounding edge evaporated just as fast, with all five Bulls starters grabbing an offensive rebound in the first six minutes of action.



Chicago Bulls forward Jimmy Butler, right, blocks a shot by Boston Celtics guard Isaiah Thomas (4) during the fourth quarter of a first-round NBA playoff basketball game in Boston, Tuesday, April 18, 2017. The Bulls defeated the Celtics, 111-97, and took a 2-0 lead in the series.

Boston shot 46 percent for game, but too many times was just one-and-done in the half court.

Chicago again used its big men to push the Celtics out of the paint and was quicker to the ball in a lot of 50-50 situations. The Bulls outscored the Celtics in the paint 32-20 for the half.

"I feel like in the second half, the ball stopped moving. It wasn't moving at all," Celtics guard Avery Bradley said. "Even when we made a good play, got a steal, got an offensive rebound, we were just thinking

quick 3s. As a polished team we have to know when to take those shots and when not to."

Clippers 99, Jazz 91

In Los Angeles, Blake Griffin led a smash-mouth revival of Lob City with 24 points, DeAndre Jordan had a double-double and the Los Angeles Clippers beat the Utah Jazz on Tuesday night to even their playoff series at 1-1.

Jordan finished with 18 points and 15 rebounds, and Chris Paul added 21 points and 10 assists for the Clip-

pers, who crushed the Jazz in the paint, 60-38.

Los Angeles stormed to a 12-point lead in the first quarter, reeling off the kind of dunks that earned the team's Lob City moniker years ago. Jordan's tomahawk jam put an exclamation on the end of the period.

The Big Three of Griffin, Jordan and Paul combined on 10-of-13 shooting and six rebounds in the first, when the Clippers shot 65 percent. They outscored the Jazz 18-0 in the paint.

There was more to come in the

second. Griffin powered down two dunks and Jordan again ended the scoring with an alley-oop slam from Jamal Crawford that sent the Clippers into halftime leading 51-42.

Gordon Hayward led the Jazz with 20 points. Joe Johnson, whose floater at the buzzer gave them a two-point win in Game 1, added 13 points off the bench.

Game 3 is Friday in Salt Lake City.

The Jazz never led in the game and got no closer than six points in the fourth.

Utah closed within three points early in the third on a basket by Derrick Favors, who started in place of injured Rudy Gobert. But Paul answered with a 3-pointer, then stole the ball from George Hill and cruised in for a layup before J.J. Redick scored, capping a 7-0 spurt to push the lead back to double digits.

The Clippers played defense down the stretch. Jordan came out to the perimeter to hound Hayward, while Griffin got in Johnson's face. At one point, Paul's mouthpiece went flying and landed on the opposite side of the court from him.

Griffin took a page out of Paul's repertoire and buried a 3-pointer from the left corner, extending the Clippers' lead to 97-88 with 1:35 to play.

Raptors 106, Bucks 100

In Toronto, Kyle Lowry shrugged off his Game 1 struggles in style, and got the Raptors back on level terms.

Lowry scored 22 points, including the clinching basket with less than 10 seconds to play, and Toronto beat the Milwaukee Bucks, evening their first-round playoff series at 1-1.

"I've been in the trenches with him before and he's always bounced back," Raptors coach Dwane Casey said. "That's just who he is. He's a competitor, he's a fighter. I just knew that he wasn't going to be satisfied with the way he played in the first game."

DeMar DeRozan had 23 points, Serge Ibaka added 13 of his 16 in the second half and Jonas Valanciunas had 10 points and 10 rebounds for the Raptors, who improved to 5-1 when playing Game 2 of a playoff series on their home court.

Game 3 is Thursday night in Milwaukee.

Giannis Antetokounmpo had 24 points and 15 rebounds for the Bucks. Khris Middleton scored 20 points and Greg Monroe had 18.

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—

The Golden State Warriors figured out how to win during a long stretch without Kevin Durant once. Now they might have to do so again on the playoff stage.

Durant missed Golden State's practice Tuesday because of a strained left calf and was listed as questionable for Wednesday's Game 2 against Portland, which will be playing without injured center Jusuf Nurkic.

"Obviously you want to have everybody healthy, and we'll see how it goes tomorrow, but we've been in this

Portland's Nurkic out in Game 2, Durant questionable

situation very recently so understand next man up and the way that we need to play when certain guys are out," Stephen Curry said. "It all starts obviously defensively. Based on our Game 1 we need to pick it up on that end anyway so it should be a good challenge. ... If that's the case, I know those guys want to play, tomorrow we'll be ready for whatever lineups we throw out there."

The Warriors, who won Game 1 on Sunday, also listed Shaun Livingston as questionable with a sprained right in-

dex finger and bruised hand, while forward Matt Barnes is questionable with a sprained right ankle and foot.

Coach Steve Kerr said Durant's injury happened in the game, when he had 32 points and 10 rebounds in his playoff debut with the Warriors. Durant received treatment Tuesday after the team took Monday off from formal workouts.

Kerr didn't hear about the injury until after the 121-109 win. He expects Durant to return sometime during the best-of-seven first-round series,

if not Wednesday against the Trail Blazers.

"I'm not sure if he felt it at the end of the game or if he felt it after," Kerr said. "That's totally the expectation but you've got to be careful with this stuff, too. So we'll see how he feels tomorrow."

Durant recently missed 19 games with a left knee injury before returning for the final three regular-season games.

When asked after the game about an athletic trainer checking him in the third quarter and whether anything was wrong,

Durant said, "No, I'm cool."

Curry understands the frustration. He sprained the MCL in his right knee slipping on a wet spot during Game 4 of the first round last year at Houston and missed the first three games against the Blazers in the Western Conference semifinals before coming off the bench in the fourth.

"Anybody who's going through that, you feel bad because everybody wants to play, especially this time of year when it matters the most," Curry said. "There's no kind of

sugarcoating that at all."

Livingston jammed his hand while diving on the floor, Kerr said. Barnes did more work in practice Tuesday, and "he probably needs a little more work but there's a chance he could play," the coach said.

The 7-foot Nurkic spoke before Portland's practice in San Francisco, saying he's not yet ready to return following a non-displaced fracture in his right leg that sidelined him the final seven regular-season games.

Blazers coach Terry Stotts didn't want to guess when Nurkic might be back, noting it's still too early to tell.

Gonzales, White Sox stop Yankees' win streak



NEW YORK (AP) —

Miguel Gonzalez ended his road woes with a flourish.

He had been 0-7 in 19 starts away from home since winning at Tampa Bay for Baltimore on July 25, 2015. The 32-year-old right-hander's first road victory for the Chicago White Sox was one to savor.

Gonzalez pitched shutout ball into the ninth inning, Leury Garcia and Avisail Garcia homered off Luis Severino, and the White Sox beat the Yankees 4-1 Tuesday night to stop New York's eight-game winning streak.

"I never thought about it," Gonzalez said of the skid.

Gonzalez (2-0) allowed four hits—all infield singles—and one run in 8 1/3 innings, struck out four and walked one. He threw just 88 pitches—needing three in the seventh despite Jacoby Ellsbury's leadoff bunt single. Matt Holliday grounded into a double play and Starlin Castro bounced out, both on the first pitch.

"His stuff was moving all over. He was living on the edges," Yankees manager Joe Girardi said.

Gonzalez retired his first 12 batters before Castro's infield single on a slow bouncer to shortstop leading off the fifth. David Robertson relieved with a 4-0 lead and two on in the ninth after a four-pitch walk to Brett Gardner.

"I was getting a little tired towards the end, leaving the ball up," Gonzalez said.

Robertson loaded the bases with a walk to Ellsbury, struck out Holliday and forced in a run with a walk to Castro. Aaron Judge grounded into a forceout for Robertson's fourth save, ending a game that breezed by in just 2 hours, 16 minutes.

On the 94th anniversary of the first game at original Yankee Stadium across 161st Street, the Yankees lost for the first time in eight home games this season.

Marlins 5, Mariners 0

In Seattle, Wei-Yin Chen and two relievers fell two outs shy of Miami's first combined no-hitter and the Marlins one-hit the Seattle Mariners in a victory Tuesday night.



Chicago White Sox starting pitcher Miguel Gonzalez winds up during the first inning of the team's baseball game against the New York Yankees at Yankee Stadium, Tuesday, April 18, 2017, in New York. AP

The Marlins were on the verge of the sixth no-hitter in franchise history when Mitch Haniger lined a one-out double into right-center field off Kyle Barraclough. The right-hander recovered to strike out Robinson Cano and get Nelson Cruz to line out to end it.

Chen (2-0) did the heavy lifting, silencing the Mariners for seven innings. He was pulled by manager Don Mattingly after throwing 100 pitches, and the bullpen sought to finish what the left-hander from Taiwan had started.

Athletics 4, Rangers 2

In Oakland, Andrew Triggs allowed three hits over six innings to outpitch Yu Darvish, and Oakland beat Texas.

Adam Rosales hit a two-run home run and Khris Davis added a sacrifice fly as part of a four-run sixth as the A's overcame their majors-leading 17th error to snap a four-game losing streak.

Triggs (3-0) gave up two unearned runs, didn't walk a batter and had five strikeouts.

Rockies 4, Dodgers 3

In Los Angeles, Nolan Arenado homered twice, Trevor Story also connected and Colorado held off Los Angeles.

Greg Holland gave up two runs in the ninth inning but earned his eighth save. With runners at first and second, Adrian Gonzalez grounded out to end it.

Phillies 6, Mets 2, 10 innings

In New York, Cameron Rupp drove in the tiebreaking run with a sacrifice fly and Philadelphia scored four times in the 10th inning to beat struggling New York.

Odubel Herrera homered early for the Phillies, who took advantage of a pivotal error by third baseman Jose Reyes and handed the Mets their fourth straight defeat. Reyes dropped a two-out popup in the eighth inning before Andres Blanco tied it at 2 with an RBI double.

Cubs 9, Brewers 7

In Chicago, Kyle Schwarber and Miguel Montero each hit a two-run homer, Albert Almora Jr. and Jon Jay added run-scoring hits in a four-run sixth inning and Chicago rallied from five down in a win over Milwaukee.

Brewers slugger Eric Thames had two doubles and three hits but ended his franchise record-tying homer streak at five games.

Reds 9, Orioles 3

In Cincinnati, Adam Duvall hit his first career grand slam, Joey Votto had a two-run shot and Bronson Arroyo got his first win in almost three years.

The 40-year-old Arroyo (1-2) allowed three runs in five innings, including Adam Jones' two-run homer in the fifth. The victory was Arroyo's first since June 15, 2014, for Arizona against the Dodgers.

Nationals 3, Braves 1

In Atlanta, Max Scherzer pitched two-hit ball over seven scoreless innings and Washington handed Atlanta its first loss at SunTrust Park, escaping a major jam in the ninth to win.

Atlanta scored a run against closer Blake Treinen and had the bases loaded with one out. But Shawn Kelley came on for his first save, getting Emilio Bonifacio to fly out to short right and striking out Chase

d'Arnaud—twice, actually—to end the game.

Cardinals 2, Pirates 1

In St. Louis, Dexter Fowler tripled and scored, Mike Leake pitched into the seventh inning and St. Louis beat Pittsburgh after Pirates outfielder Starling Marte was suspended 80 games for a banned substance earlier in the day.

Seung Hwan Oh allowed three hits in the ninth but escaped a one-out, bases-loaded jam for his second save.

Rays 5, Tigers 1

In St. Petersburg, Matt Andriese outpitched Michael Fulmer, Tim Beckham hit a two-run homer and Tampa Bay beat Detroit.

Andriese (1-0), who had lost seven of nine decisions dating to last June 25, allowed one run and four hits over six-plus innings. He retired 12 straight during one stretch.

Red Sox 8, Blue Jays 7

In Toronto, Brian Johnson earned his first major league win after being called up from the minors earlier in the day, Mookie Betts hit his first

home run of the season and Boston hung on to beat the Toronto for its season-high fourth straight victory.

Johnson (1-0), promoted Tuesday morning from Triple-A Pawtucket, gave up four runs and seven hits and struck out six in five innings. He lost his only other start, at Houston on July 21, 2015.

Giants 2, Royals 1, 11 innings

In Kansas City, Joe Panik hit an RBI single with two outs in the 11th inning, and San Francisco beat Kansas City to begin their two-game interleague set.

Nick Hundley doubled off Scott Alexander (0-1), the Royals' fifth reliever of the night, before Panik's sharp liner dropped in front of center fielder Lorenzo Cain to score the go-ahead run.

Indians 11, Twins 4

In Minneapolis, Jose Ramirez homered and drove in two runs and Josh Tomlin gave up three runs in six innings to lead Cleveland over Minnesota.

Francisco Lindor broke the game open with a two-run triple in the sixth and struggling slugger Edwin Encarnacion also went deep for the Indians.

Angels 5, Astros 2

In Houston, Albert Pujols hit a tiebreaking three-run homer in the fifth inning to give Los Angeles a victory over Houston and snap a six-game skid.

George Springer hit his AL-leading seventh home run for the Astros, whose five-game winning streak was snapped.

Angels starter Ricky Nolasco (1-2) yielded eight hits and two runs in six innings to improve to 5-0 in six career starts against the Astros.

Diamondbacks 11, Padres 2

In San Diego, Yasmany Tomas hit a three-run homer, Shelby Miller pitched 7 1/3 innings of four-hit ball and Arizona routed San Diego.

Miller (2-1) kept the Padres off balance most of the night, including four 1-2-3 innings. Miller allowed a double to Travis Jankowski leading off the eighth, struck out Christian Bethancourt and then made way for Randall Delgado. Miller struck out five and walked two.

Patriots sign Super Bowl hero Butler, may trade him



FOXBOROUGH, Mass.

(AP)— The New England Patriots signed cornerback Malcolm Butler to a free agent tender on Tuesday that makes the hero of their fourth Super Bowl victory eligible to be traded.

Butler visited the New Orleans Saints last month, but they declined to sign him to an offer sheet that could have required them to compensate New England with their first-round draft pick, No. 11 overall. Instead, the Saints are believed to covet Butler in exchange for the No. 32 overall

pick they received in the trade that sent Brandin Cooks to New England.

Butler could not be traded until he signed the tender, which would pay him \$3.91 million for the 2017 season.

Patriots director of player personnel Nick Caserio was asked several times about

Butler at his pre-draft news conference on Tuesday, but declined to tip his hand.

"Right now we're focused on getting ready for the draft," he said. "That's where the focus is. I don't anticipate that many transactions here between now and next Thursday or Friday. Could that change?

I mean, look, it's the National Football League. Things can change in a heartbeat."

Butler, now 27, was an undrafted free agent who during his rookie season of 2014 intercepted Seattle Seahawks quarterback Russell Wilson at the goal line in the final minutes of the Super Bowl to secure the victory for the Patriots. But New England

coach Bill Belichick has balked at giving him the lucrative, long-term security he has been seeking.

Instead, the Patriots gave the money to free agent Bills cornerback Stephon Gilmore, a 2012 first-round draft pick who made the Pro Bowl last season after recording 48 tackles and a career-high five interceptions.

Ronaldo hat trick brings Madrid to Champions League semis

MADRID (AP)—With a hat trick that made him the first player to score 100 Champions League goals, Cristiano Ronaldo led Real Madrid to a 4-2 win over 10-man Bayern Munich after extra time on Tuesday and put the defending champions back in the semifinals.

Ronaldo scored once in regulation and twice in extra time, while Marco Asensio also netted late for Madrid, which advanced 6-3 on aggregate after a 2-1 first leg win in Germany.

"In the big moments, Ronaldo always comes through," Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane said. "He scored five times in these two games, what else can I say?"

Ronaldo had scored both goals for Madrid in the first leg, when he became the first player to reach 100 goals in European club competition.

Bayern played a man down from the 84th minute after Arturo Vidal picked up his second yellow card of the night for a foul on Asensio.

"We deserved more," said Bayern coach Carlo Ancelotti, who complained about the refereeing. "The calls made by the referee hurt us a lot. The second yellow for Arturo should not have been a card, and Ronaldo had two goals when he was offside."

Ronaldo appeared to be in front of the defenders, and just offside, for his first goal in extra time.

Vidal appeared to mainly get the ball in his challenge on Asensio, although he could have received a second yellow earlier for a foul on Casemiro.

After Robert Lewandowski had scored a 53rd minute penalty for Bayern, an own-goal by Madrid defender Sergio



Ramos in the 78th had given the German side a 2-1 lead in regulation time, and sent the game into extra time.

The victory at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium put Madrid into the semifinals for the seventh straight season and kept alive its hopes of becoming the first team to retain the Champions League title since the competition's new format was created in 1992.

Madrid defeated city rival Atletico Madrid in the final both in 2014 and 2016.

Atletico also made it to the semifinals by eliminating Leicester 2-1 on aggregate after a 1-1 draw in Tuesday's other quarterfinal, second-leg match.

Bayern, the 2013 Champions League winner, had made it at least to the semifinals for the last five seasons.

"We played a lot of difficult matches this season, but this one was the most difficult one," Zidane said. "In the end, over the two legs, we deserved to go through."

The opening 45 minutes were balanced between the two sides, but Bayern was dominant after halftime as it pressed forward, trying to overturn the first-leg deficit.

"The team was courageous," Bayern defender Philipp Lahm said. "It hurts to go out in extra time, but we were a man down for over an hour across the tie. I think the

team deserved to go through."

Bayern also played with 10 men in the second half of the game in Germany.

Lewandowski, who had missed the first leg because of a right shoulder injury, calmly scored from the spot with a right-foot shot, sending Keylor Navas the wrong way.

The penalty was awarded after a foul by Casemiro on Arjen Robben.

Not long before the penalty, Marcelo had prevented Bayern from scoring by making a goal line clearance after a shot by Robben had beaten Navas.

Ronaldo scored his first goal of the night with a header in the 76th minute after a well-placed cross by Casemiro from the right flank.

Two minutes later, though, Ramos found his own net when his deflection sent the ball trickling across the goal line. The Spanish defender was making his 100th Champions League appearance.

Ronaldo put Madrid back

'THE CRANK'

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to bring back to old Crank and combine him with better fight IQ and wisdom," said Camacho, who will be up against a new opponent as his rematch with Hyun Joo Kim did not materialize after the Korean got a better offer to fight in Japan the same weekend ROP 21 is scheduled.

Camacho and Kim met in ROP 20: Conquer in August last year with the Trench Tech bet earning a TKO win at the 3:17 mark of the opening round of their five-round bout after peppering the latter with powerful strikes.

Taking the place of Kim was his compatriot, who just started seeing action in the octagon cage in 2015. Despite his limited experience, Park boasts an impressive record of 3-1. The 6'1" Korean won his debut on the eight sides after stopping Kan Hosa via TKO (punches) at the 2:39 mark of Round 1 of their welterweight duel in Wardog Cage Fight 4 last May 31, 2015. Park then fell (TKO/punches) to fellow Korean Yul Kim in Top FC 11 in May 2016, but bounced back with two straight victories in the same Top FC event. In Top FC Dream 1, Park used a rear-naked choke on Dae Sun Hwang to get the win just 25 seconds into the fight. For his third and latest win, Park edged (unanimous decision) Jae Young Ahn in Top FC 14 in May this year.

AP
Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo, center, and Bayern's Xabi Alonso, bottom, vie for the ball during the Champions League quarterfinal second leg soccer match at Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid, Spain, Tuesday April 18, 2017.

in control when he chested down a pass by Ramos and fired a left-foot shot that went underneath Bayern goalkeeper Manuel Neuer in the 105th minute.

He added another from close range after a run by Marcelo down the left flank in the 110th, and Asensio sealed the victory after getting past a series of defenders and firing home from inside the area in the 112th.

Bayern was trying to become only the third team to reverse a first-leg home loss in Champions League history, along with Inter Milan in 2011 and Ajax in 1996.

"I think we played well overall and we can leave with our heads held high," Bayern defender Jerome Boateng said.

Security guards and Bayern fans got into a confrontation at the stands at halftime but the altercation ended quickly.

The Korean's strong start in his young MMA career plus his eagerness to put on a great show in his debut on Saipan in front of the partisan crowd would make Park a tough opponent, according to Camacho.

"At the end of the day, this dude is going try to whoop me up and finish me in front of my home island. He is going be behind enemy lines, I know that, and that can make opponents like him very dangerous," said the 27-year-old fighter.

Camacho will put his 19-4 record on the line when he square off against Park in the main event of the May 26 competition that will be held at the Marianas Business Plaza's parking lot.

Park will be the fourth Korean to challenge Camacho, who holds a 2-1 record against the former's compatriots. Besides beating Hyun Joo Kim last year, Camacho also downed Jae Woong Kim (arm triangle choke) in the first round (4:38) of their bout in Trench Warz 18: Rock and Rumble in December 2014. Camacho's lone loss to a Korean was courtesy of Han Seul Kim, who registered a TKO win in the first round of their match in PXC 54 in July last year.

Meanwhile, Camacho will warm-up for his anticipated clash against Park by joining the Marianas Open 2017 (grappling and submission competition) that will take place at the end of the month.

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than we were against Jinshan. We lost some goals because of our fitness. The girls would lose discipline and concentra-

CLOSE

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the Majors division last week and action at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield will resume this Saturday with players in the Top 20 needing to perform better as the league is past its halfway mark. The 10 teams in the division will play 12 games in the regular season and majority of them had already completed at least eight games each.

In the pitching race, the Top 3 are also in a close fight with leader Jason Reyes holding a 0.35 ERA against the 0.46 of Delbert Sablan and 0.66 of Isidro Lizama. Serrano and Gunner Sablan are ranked fourth and fifth with their 1.00

tion when they are tired. Overall, the coaches believed that they played much better in this game," said the team manager, adding that a few of their players are injured, but they still decided to play some minutes.

and 1.33 ERA, respectively.

Anthony Acosta is out of the Top 5 in the pitching race, but is on top of the strikeouts category with 53, 10 more than Serrano's output. Reyes has 37 so far, while Isidro Lizama has earned 35. In the most runs, Lushawnn Reyes and Delbert Sablan have 20 each for the tie. There are also deadlocks in the most RBIs with Joseph Ada and Delbert Sablan having 12 and in the most triples between Gunner Sablan and Kazu Dela Cruz, who have three apiece. Ada and Delbert Sablan have the solo lead in the doubles (seven) and homers (three), respectively.

Meanwhile, in the Junior League division, the Braves' Vicente Camacho went 12-

Patricia Surima suffered an injury while playing defense, as she tried to block a cross from Chinese-Taipei. She is recovering well and has expressed her willingness to play against Mongolia.

for-24 for an average of .500, but a lot of batters could still catch up or slip past him.

They include his teammate Leve'Que Iguel and the Falcons' Nixon Smith, who recorded similar batting averages of .473, the Enforcers' Thomas Agulto (.458), the Braves' Josenio Alvarez (.454) and JP Celis (.440), the Ol'Aces Trevor Lieto (.428), the Falcons' Froilan Camacho (.428), the Enforcers' Sean Rabauliman (.428), and the Comets' Sab Saures (.416), and A.J Sanchez (.416). Nine other batters made it to the leaderboard after averaging over .300.

Camacho is also No. 1 in the pitching contest, but his 0.58 ERA is not way ahead of

2017 CNMI Junior Tennis Championships

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Rintaro Miyawaki returns to Eugene Park during their boys U14 singles game in the 2017 CNMI Junior Tennis Championships last Saturday at the American Memorial Park courts.



Ken Xue rushes sideways for a return to Sean Lee.



Seung Won Lee goes for a backhand return to Hyunmin Cho during their boys U14 singles match.



Sean Lee calls a fault after a wide serve from Ken Xue.



Eugene Park uses both his hands to receive a serve from Rintaro Miyawaki.



Malika Miyawaki make a backhand return to Isabel Heras during their girl U18 single tiff.



Isabel Heras makes a return from the baseline.



Bulls beat top-seeded Celtics to take 2-0 series lead

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Gonzales, White Sox stop Yankees' win streak

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

28 THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2017

Close battles in batting races

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

No leads are safe in the batting races in the Majors and Junior League divisions of the 2017 Saipan Little League Baseball.

The Little Legals' Gunner Sablan is on top of the batting charts (updated statistics as of April 2) with his average of .625, but not far behind are McDonald's Lushawn Reyes (.620) and the former's teammate Delbert Sablan (.607). Sablan has the best average so far among the 20 leaders after going 15-for-24, while Reyes and Delbert went 18-for-29 and 17-for-28, respectively.

Two other players are also still in the hunt for the top honors in the batting contest as the



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Comets batter waits for a pitch from the O'Acres during their Majors division game in the 2017 Saipan Little League Baseball last month at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.



Little Legals' Kaipo Dikito and the Braves' Joel Borja

have similar averages of .500. Dikito hit 14-for-28, while Borja was 9-for-18 at bat.

Rounding out the Top 20, which was based on 18 or more times at bat) were McDonald's Joseph Ada (.462), Bank of Saipan's Jequinn Lizama (.450), the Braves' Patrick Celis (.450), Pirates 2's Easton Dela Cruz (.444), Bank of Saipan's Anton Aguon (.434), McDonald's Joel Deleon Guerrero (.428), the Falcons' Keoni Serrano (.423), Pirates 2's Ryder Alvarez (.421), Pirates 2's Jeremiah Suel III (.421), the Braves' taisei Desebel (.409), the Little Legals' Lucio Aldan (.407), Bank of Saipan's Isidro Lizama (.400), the Braves' Heath Camacho (.391), Pirates 2's Deondrey Cruz (.388), and Pirates 1's Kazu Dela Cruz (.388).

There were no games in

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CNMI U15 anticipates good game vs Mongolia

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI Girls U15 National Team is down to one game and is aiming for a strong finish

as it faces Mongolia in the EAFF U15 Girls Tournament 2017 today at the Jinshan Sports Center in Shanghai, China.

"We will be playing



against Mongolia for our last game. It is likely that they are a fairly new team. Because of this and now that the girls are accustomed to the

weather here, the coaches are anticipating a good game. We will continue to encourage the girls to do their best and make our island proud," said team manager Mikky Vargas in an email sent to *Saipan Tribune* a day after the squad dropped its second straight match, losing to Pool C favorite Chinese-Taipei, 0-8.

The Commonwealth bets played against their counterparts on Chinese-Taipei last Tuesday and though the former yielded eight goals—one more than they allowed in their debut loss to Jinshan—the Luen Khen Koo-coached squad showed some improvements and were a bit accustomed to playing under the cold weather.

"They are getting used to the briskness of the air. Many of them had difficulty breathing during their first match and our fitness suffered a great deal. During this game however, it was much easier on the girls," Vargas said.

"On the defensive end, we were a lot more organized, compact, and disciplined

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EAFF PHOTO

The CNMI Girls U15 National Team's Theresa Toves, left, catches the ball while her teammate Patricia Surima looks on during their game against Chinese-Taipei in the EAFF U15 Girls Tournament 2017 last Tuesday at the Jinshan Sports Center in Shanghai, China.

'The Crank' not taking new foe lightly

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Frank "The Crank" Camacho is leaving no room for complacency even if he will be facing a relatively newcomer in Xtreme Combat's Gun Hwan Park in next month's Rites of Passage 21: Throwdown.

"I will approach this fight

the same way I approached my previous bouts. I am having my usual preparation, getting the gym time in, drilling, and conditioning. The beauty of martial arts is not only the constant growth but also the constant search for 'yourself.' I need

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PACIFIC XTREME PHOTO

Frank "The Crank" Camacho, left, keeps his hands up to defend himself against the attack of Korean Han Seul Kim during the first round of their match in PXC 54 in July last year at the University of Guam Calvo Field House.